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Latin America Report

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26 March 1984

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FUEL RATIONING ADOPTED TO CURTAIL WIDESPREAD CONTRABAND

La Paz HOY in Spanish 19 Feb 84 p 4

[Text] The government will institute strict control of fuel consumption throughout the country in an attempt to prevent fuel smuggling.

In recent days methods for dealing with the situation have been worked out, seeking concrete and decisive measures to efficiently organize the use of hydrocarbons nationally.

Domestic Consumption

For some time now the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB) has been studying the possibility of controlling the indiscriminate and excessive use of fuels produced from hydrocarbons by making use of the "consumer card," according to reports given to HOY.

In other countries excellent results are being achieved by this system, which through its measures, prevents the hoarding of fuel and also improves the systematic order for transporting fuel so that the cost of these non-renewable resources can be reduced. Cited, for example, was the regulation of vehicular traffic on days established by license plate number (one day the plates ending with an even numeral circulate and on the day after come those ending with an odd numeral and so on, without discriminating).

The institutions and even the petroleum enterprise [YPFB] have been constantly criticizing the "squandering" of fuel without weighing the future consequences, with the understanding that their reserves of petroleum and condensates are not of a magnitude large enough to envision very long periods of supply.

It has been reported that yesterday authorities of the Ministry of Energy met with representatives from the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate Chamber, from the Bolivian Air Force, from the Customs Office and from YPFB to deal with those matters and to find adequate solutions.

Contraband

In order to prevent smuggling, it was reported, efficient organization of fuel consumption will take place first among the population in the border areas and at the same time differential prices will be established.

It was decided to suspend private contracts for service to gasoline pumps or filling stations, since they will be managed directly by YPFB.

Likewise, it was decided to return to the transportation of fuel by the units belonging to the YPFB.

At yesterday's meeting a subcommittee was nominated which will take charge of preparing a complete report, based on thorough and relevant documentation, concerning the effects of smuggling on the national economy and on YPFB in particular.

CSO: 3348/298

YPFB OFFICIAL DISCUSSES EXPLORATION PLANS, 1984 BUDGET

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Feb 84 p 6

[Text] With an investment of \$45 million, 22 exploratory wells will be drilled. The general YPFB budget for 1984 will reach \$600 million.

The general manager of the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB), Ricardo Michel, has told PRESENCIA that this year \$250 million will be invested in hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation projects.

He said that 22 exploratory wells are scheduled to be drilled, a project which will represent an investment of \$45 million.

He reported that the general operational budget for the enterprise amounts to \$600 million, of which \$250 million will be allotted for investment and the remainder (\$350 million) will go for administrative costs.

He indicated that the first stage of exploration has already begun on the high plateau in the departments of Potosi, Oruro and La Paz, where mobile geological teams are operating with the aim of carrying out the necessary work pertaining to this phase of exploration.

He announced that afterwards the drilling phase will begin, which will demand "greater expenditures for the YPFB."

He said that the work being carried out on the high plateau represents an investment of \$5 million.

He explained that a project is also being carried out in the eastern part of the country in the area known as "Llanuras," which comprises the Gran Chaco, Tarija, Chuquisaca, Santa Cruz and Beni. In carrying out this project, a total of \$40 million will be invested. Currently, work is being done in the seismic stage.

Debt Owed Tesoro and Occidental

The manager of YPFB reported that by 31 December 1983 the debt owed to the Tesoro and Occidental enterprises for the sale of gas and crude oil had

reached \$30 million. The gas which YPFB is buying from these enterprises is being sold to Argentina.

Michel said: "Tesoro and Occidental are being paid in accordance with what Argentina pays us for the gas that we sell it and in accordance with the foreign exchange which we have on hand."

He reported that the Argentine debt for the Bolivian gas is \$290 million. "We are charging interest for delayed payment. By December the interest charges had reached \$16 million and Argentina has paid us \$8 million."

Gasoline Price

He indicated that YPFB has done several studies relating to the gasoline price at the consumer level. These studies are based on the international price and on the official price of the dollar.

He said: "If we used the international price, YPFB could save our petroleum reserves and there would be no smuggling of gasoline. In that way we could preserve our petroleum reserves and the country would benefit more from this. We would avoid waste and increase our proven reserves."

He explained that the Ministry of Energy and Hydrocarbons has also done several studies on the price of a liter of gasoline, but everything concerning the market price of the neighboring countries. [sentence as published]

CSO: 3348/298

BRIEFS

FUEL CONSERVATION URGED--Bolivia might run the risk of not being able to supply its domestic market with liquid hydrocarbons beyond 1985, according to what was decided at the seminar on gas which took place recently in the city of Sucre. They attribute that situation to the squandering of hydrocarbons--which by their very nature are scarce--to an irrational pricing policy, and to corrupt officials. This idea coincides with a study done in recent years by a technical mission with the support of the International Development Bank, in which it is predicted that within the present decade there will be a petroleum deficit and that consequently at least 15 million barrels a day will have to be imported. At the conclusion of that meeting in which seven political parties participated--ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action], MNRI [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left], PS-1 [Socialist Party No 1], PC [Bolivian Communist Party], MNR-H [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement-Historic], MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] and PDC [Christian Democratic Party]--and four representatives of other organizations, it was recommended that "special precautions be taken to conserve this nonrenewable resource. The preservation of gas reserves should cover the needs for using gas as an energy source and raw material for the establishment of the petrochemical industry in the country, for a time period of not less than 30 years and preferably 50 years." It was also recommended that a method be found for establishing a level of reserves to provide for the country's domestic demand. [Excerpts] [La Paz HOY in Spanish 18 Feb 84 p 3]

CSO: 3348/298

MINAS TO REACTIVATE 40 MINI-HYDROELECTRIC PLANTS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Feb 84 p 45

[Text] Belo Horizonte--Minas is going to reactivate 40 small hydroelectric plants shut down because of the impossibility of supplying the cities with energy after they grew as a result of industrial development. The plants are going to be utilized again to save diesel fuel in rural areas or places without power, which will represent a savings of 300 million cruzeiros each if the state were to build them now.

The power of the mini-plants already surveyed or in the process of being surveyed ranges from 100 to 1,200 kilovolt-amperes (KVA) and, to illustrate, the most powerful would be sufficient to light up a city of 25,000 inhabitants. Some of the plants discovered by the survey of the Department of Water and Energy of Minas had not even been completed, such as two of 220 KVA in Palmopolis in the Jequitinhonha Valley, or even the dismantled one that was kept in the yard of the Rubim Prefecture.

The mini-plants were not completely eliminated in Minas as a result of progress and some cities that still utilize this type of energy supply do not want the service to be taken over by the Minas Gerais Electric Power Stations (CEMIG).

For example, Carmesia in the Rio Doce Valley, with 3,000 inhabitants, is still served by a small 100 KVA hydroelectric plant and refuses to be linked up to CEMIG. Only one-fourth of its urban population pay for the energy they consume at the minimum rate set by the Brazilian Electric Power Stations Corporation (ELETROBRAS). The rest of the population do not pay for the energy consumed, under a law approved by the past administration which benefited low-income people. The only snag in this type of service occurs when there is a failure at the plant: since it is not possible to draw the supply from a network, the city is left without lights. A short time ago, Carmesia was without power for 3 days, causing a loss to the local economy.

Possibilities

In the plan to utilize the mini-plants once again, there are three possibilities: The first is to lease them to the industries, as occurs in Itapecerica with the National Graphite Company. They can also serve groups

of rural producers where connection to the general system would be costly, with the construction of long lines. Another is to dismantle the plants and sell them to pioneer areas of central Brazil where diesel plants are used, a fuel that is expensive to transport, or even to isolated regions of Minas Gerais.

The director of the Department of Water and Energy of Minas Gerais, (DAE-MG), Roberto Carneiro, could not specify when the fate of the recovered plants might begin to be determined, but estimated that it would be soon because the Industrial Development Institute (INDI) is already seeking parties interested in the matter.

The Minas mini-plants are all of good quality, imported from countries that are well-developed in that area, such as Germany, Britain, France, Switzerland, Belgium and the United States. That quality of the hydro-electric plants has facilitated attracting interested parties, and the largest of them, the one in Lajes in Coromandel, with a power of 1,250 KVA, will handle the Trevo Fertilizer Industry. The restoration of its lines is going to cost about 18 million cruzeiros.

There is also a plan to interconnect small plants to supply areas with light industrialization or, as occurs in Santa Maria, where one plant serves six municipalities. In places such as these, supplying energy with small plants is economically more viable because the price of the construction of a network connected to the general system would not make it worthwhile.

The mini-plants are being surveyed through communication with the prefectures or through the files of the Department of Water and Energy of Minas. For that reason, it is believed that the number already registered--namely, 40--may be increased further. The oldest of them thus far dates back to 1924, in the municipality of Piunhi near the Furnas dam. It is a French model of 350 HP, 750 RPM and 300 KVA.

Conservation

Only one of the mini-plants located is in bad condition: the one in Morro de Pilar of 100 KVA, which has a burned out alternator. The installation of the one in Itinga of 50 KVA is incompleted, while the one in Joaima has only a partly destroyed dam, and in Novo Cruzeiro there is only the dam, with a minimum discharge of 0.250 cubic meters.

There is an interesting fact that confirms the existence of good trade relations between Brazil and Germany in the very midst of World War II: two machines for the Lages plant in Coromandel were imported from that country around 1942, the date of its installation in the middle of the war, which lasted from 1939 to 1945.

The mini-plants surveyed are located in various parts of Minas. The municipalities which have them are: Aguas Formosas, Almenara, Bonfinopolis, Diamantina, Santa Maria, Carmesia, Dores do Rio Preto (in Espirito Santo but belonging to the Minas government), Florestal, Coromandel, Fronteira dos Vales, Grao Mogol, Itamarandiba, Itinga, Jequitinhonha, Joaima, Minas Novas, Morro do Pilar, Pote, Simonesia, Virginopolis, Piunhi and Ferros.

NEW PETROLEUM PRODUCTION RECORD SET IN JANUARY

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Feb 84 p 24

[Text] Rio--National oil production marked a record increase of 36.49 percent in January as a result of the extraction of 13.6 million barrels from land and offshore fields compared to 10 million barrels produced in January 1983. In the first month of this year, the daily average was 441,091 barrels, while last year that average was 323,157 barrels.

According to information revealed yesterday by the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation (PETROBRAS), the offshore sedimentary basins contributed 66.2 percent to the country's oil production. Of a total of 9.06 million barrels from the offshore fields, the Campos Basin on the Rio coast by itself contributed 7.18 million barrels or 52.51 percent of national production.

The land fields produced 4.60 million barrels of oil, with Bahia continuing to lead production with a total of 2.22 million barrels, Sergipe occupied second place with 1.26 million barrels.

By state, adding together the production of land and offshore fields, Ceara showed the greatest increase, practically doubling its volume compared to January 1983. The production of Ceara fields (land and offshore) totaled 772,136 barrels compared to 388,710 barrels in January 1983, representing an increase of 98.64 percent.

Contributing to that expansion were the gradual entrance into production of several wells in the Curima offshore field and the beginning of operations of the Xereu-I platform in August and the Atum-2 platform in December. At the present time, there are six platforms operating in the waters of the Ceara coast.

NATIONAL OIL PRODUCTION

(in barrels)

<u>Land</u>	<u>Jan 83</u>	<u>Jan 84</u>
Ceara	26,920	42,834
Rio Grande do Norte	99,794	337,448
Alagoas	142,596	164,422
Sergipe	1,146,203	1,262,984
Bahia	2,267,888	2,226,470
Espirito Santo	545,018	574,781
Total:	4,228,419	4,608,929 [as published]
3,3	4,6	[as published]

Offshore

Para	--	49,312
Ceara	361,790	729,302
Rio Grande do Norte	551,300	449,406
Sergipe	379,118	386,698
Bahia	266,939	221,099
Espirito Santo	58,495	48,557
Rio de Janeiro	4,171,804	7,180,530
Total:	5,789,446	9,064,904
Grand Total:	10,017,865	13,673,833

Source: PETROBRAS

8711

CSO: 3342/72

BRIEFS

NEW ALAGOAS GAS FIELD--A new production area was opened up by the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation (PETROBRAS) in Alagoas as a result of the discovery of gas in the Guindaste Ranch No 1 pioneer well located about 30 kilometers northwest of Maceio. In the tests made, the well produced about 45,000 cubic meters daily. The gas emerged from the sandstone rocks belonging to the Muribeca formation at depths of between 3.276 and 3.296 meters [as published]. In view of the discovery, PETROBRAS decided to drill a delimiting well immediately to determine the extent of the reservoir and the economic feasibility of gas production in the area. Company experts consider the discovery very significant, not because of the production volume obtained in the tests, but because it opens up the prospect of the discovery of other gas deposits in the area. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Feb 84 p 24] 8711

CSO: 3342/72

BRIEFS

OIL REFINERY PROBLEMS--Caracas, 5 Mar--Venezuela's economic crisis could jeopardise the continued presence of Shell and Exxon oil refineries in the Dutch Antilles, the islands' prime minister Don Martina said on Friday. Venezuela, which has a 34 billion dollar foreign debt, last week announced a package of austerity measures including a devaluation of 43 percent against the dollar. Its new currency rate will be used for most imports. 'The most serious problem is for the future of the oil industry in the Antilles and specifically the future of Shell in Curacao and Exxon and Shell refineries in the Dutch Antilles processed an average of 270,000 barrels of Venezuelan crude oil per day, but that figure has been steadily reduced because of slackened world demand. But Martina said after a two-day visit here that the Venezuelan government had stated its intention of contributing to the economic and social development of the Dutch Antilles and that this could help establish conditions that would guarantee the presence of Shell and Exxon. A meeting was likely next week between representatives of Shell and the Venezuelan state oil company Maraven to study refining plans and a possible capital participation of Maraven in Shell, he added. [Text] [The Hague ANP NEWS BULLETIN in English 5 Mar 84 p 5]

CSO: 3600/12

TESORO PREDICTS 8-YEAR RECOVERY OF 720,000 BARRELS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 20 Feb 84 p 6

[Text] Trinidad Tesoro will recover some 720,000 barrels of crude oil over an eight year period under a recovery programme initiated by the company on its marine fields in Point Galeota. T

The company made the announcement in the lead story of the February issue of its newsletter, "Trinidad Tesoro News".

According to Tesoro, installation of waterflooding equipment on Platform C had already begun adding that the installation of production equipment had started on the recently constructed platform D which is also located offshore Point Galeota.

Tesoro stated: "The plan to waterflood Platform C follows a feasibility survey last year in which our reservoir engineers concluded that the injection of 3,000 barrels of water a day was necessary for the recovery of additional crude--an estimated 720,000 barrels in eight years with peak production expected to be 940 barrels a day."

The recovery process will include the usage of sea water and according to the company, several innovations have been made to overcome problems associated with offshore waterflooding.

The "news" said that the two projects were scheduled for commissioning within the next couple of months adding that Platform D may be brought into production by the end of next month while the waterflooding facilities should be completely installed in April.

The company's project engineer Krishna Maharaj is supervising the installation of production equipment, Manifold, interconnecting piping etc. Drilling on platform D was completed in mid December after two exploratory and 14 development wells were drilled, the company stated.

CSO: 3298/573

WEEKES RESPONDS TO TEXACO WITH ATTACK ON ITS POLICIES

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] THE Oilfields Workers Trade Union has dismissed charges by Texaco Trinidad Inc that the local tax structure was "unrealistic, unfair and confiscatory" saying instead that the company benefitted handsomely while the country lost hundreds of million of dollars in oil revenue.

The OWTU made the rebuttal as the running war of words between Texaco's General Manager Lloyd Austin and OWTU leader George Weekes continued unabated yesterday. Austin had made the description about the local oil pricing structure in a letter following a request by Weekes for Texaco to hand over its assets to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. However, yesterday Weekes commented extensively on Austin's remarks and delved into the company's international operations to prove "the contempt with which your company views the intelligence of the Government and people of

the country and the other Third World people."

In opening his letter, Weekes told Austin that he was disappointed but not surprised with the general manager's letter. Noting Austin's criticisms of the tax structure the OWTU leader said: "Such a charge would have been laughable, had it not been for the fact that based on experience gained in our dealing with Texaco. We are forced to the conclusion that your charge is that of a war-mongering warning if not an official declaration of war by Texaco ... it is this said type of contempt which allows Texaco to unashamedly invest in South Africa in addition to selling crude oil from Trinidad and Tobago and other countries, to help oil the war machines of the fascist/racist regimes."

Said Weekes: "On top of this, the supplemental refining tax has also been removed. This tax, you would be aware, replaced the refinery

throughput tax which was more than four times per unit of the now removed supplemental refining tax ... your argument about the tax system is purely rhetorical, without substance and is designed to mislead and disorient. But no longer shall the slaves be shackled. We have sniffed the winds of freedom and it is indeed odorous."

The OWTU leader also chided Austin for inviting the union to support the company "because I know that it would be the answers to our problem." On that score, Weekes said: "It is regrettable that you made such an invitation, because I believe you must know me better than that. You should know that as far as I am concerned, the time has long past when the Government of Trinidad and Tobago must join all progressive forces in putting an end to the ridiculous situation where Texaco is placed before country."

BRIEFS

OIL REVENUE LOSS--Energy and Natural Resources Minister Patrick Manning disclosed that government lost some \$1.7 million in oil revenue last year due to the decline in the oil industry. Manning addressed a press conference at Amoco Oil Company Point Galeota facilities following a meeting there on Wednesday. He said in 1981, government received \$4.2 billion in taxes and royalties from the oil companies. He said this dropped to \$2.4 billion in 1983. Manning did not give the 1982 figures. He said the oil prices would stabilize in 1984 but hastened to add that oil prices were determined more by politics than by "any rational economic theory." Manning said that government had no intention of revising further the supplemental petroleum tax on land operations despite complaints from a particular oil company in south Trinidad. Texaco Trinidad Inc had gone on record as saying that the reduction in the SPT from 35 to 15 per cent will not significantly help the company in its present financial problems. Manning said that some oil companies had in fact been helped by the reduction and in a few cases the reduction in the SPT resulted in new explosion initiatives. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 Feb 84 p 3]

CSO: 3298/573

PRIME MINISTER HIT FOR POLITICAL PREEMPTION OF RADIO-TV

St Johns THE STANDARD in English 11 Feb 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

Over the last few days ABS Radio and Television facilities were used by the ALP regime and by Prime Minister Bird in particular, to hurl diatribe and invective repeatedly at the PLM Opposition. Prime Minister Bird went as far as to urge his hearers and listeners never to allow the PLM to return to power in this country. This is deliberate blatant, and naked partisan political campaigning. If one political party, the ruling ALP, is free to use the facilities of ABS Radio and Television, owned and operated at the expense of all tax-payers of the nation, for whatever purpose that the ALP chooses, but the total exclusion of all other political parties in the nation, then this constitutes nothing short of a direct invitation to rebellion on the part of those taxpayers who do not support the ruling ALP.

Political parties in Antigua criticise one another, and rightfully so, as one of anxious and natural consequences of democracy. The political platforms and the newspapers, all privately owned, are the normal media through which the various political parties and groups are expected to attack and to criticise one another. Radio ZDK, a local Radio Station owned and operated by the Bird Family as a private enterprise, is free to throw its full weight into political campaigning for and on behalf of the ALP. But there must be a vast difference when it comes to using the facilities of ABS-Radio TV, owned and operated at the expense of all taxpayers of the nation, for political campaigning.

This newspaper raised this very same issue only a few weeks ago, and we now do so again. If the ALP regime wants to campaign via ABS Radio and TV, then equal time must be provided to the Opposition. These were the very types of excesses in which Eric Gairy persistently indulged while he was Prime Minister of Grenada. They remained unchecked and eventually erupted not only in the overthrow by a coup d'etat, but a bloodbath in Grenada, accompanied by a host of consequences the full implications of which will probably never be fully known.

During his feature address to formally open a plant to produce galvanize sheets, Prime Minister Bird used the occasion to launch a new phrase of cheap political campaigning. He told his radio and television audience that the five years of the Opposition PLM Administration 1971-1976 were five BLACK YEARS, and the worst economic times that

Antigua experienced in recent times. He stated that the PLM closed down a number of factories including the Antigua Sugar Factory.

According to Prime Minister Bird the PLM Administration did absolutely nothing good during their tenure of office. When taxpayers are forced to pay dearly for the propagation of such BRAINWASH, then one is made to wonder how much worse can we ever get. If this is democracy, then we are no different from people under a TOTALITARIAN system.

If BLACKNESS is to fix the roads all over the country as the PLM did so well during 1971-1976, when BLACK is indeed BEAUTIFUL. If BLACKNESS is to build new school plants like the All Saints Secondary, the Ottos Comprehensive, the Pigotts Primary, the Bolans Primary and others, then BLACKNESS is BEAUTY indeed. If BLACKNESS is to revitalise agriculture producing an abundance of food, making small farmers and housewives happy, instead of perpetuating a system of seeking to pump life into an already dead sugar industry, the BLACKNESS is BEAUTY indeed. If BLACKNESS under the PLM Administration was to clean up Holberton Hospital and the whole country in general, providing better sanitation, more doctors and a better health service, then BLACKNESS is BEAUTY indeed. If PLM BLACKNESS was to instal the Delaps Water Treatment Plant by which the water of Potworks Dam could be harnessed to good use, then the PLM is proud of its BLACKNESS. If PLM BLACKNESS was to initiate a middle-income and a low-income housing scheme at Cassada Gardens, then BLACKNESS is beauty indeed.

The PLM is proud never to have been party to that massive heinous CRIME and SCANDAL under which Antigua was knowingly used as a vital LINK in the plot by which Space Research Corporation (SRC) shipped arms to South Africa to shoot down millions of BLACK people, and further entrench that iniquitous system of APARTHEID.

The PLM is proud of its record of helping people. At no time was the X-ray equipment at Holberton Hospital out of commission during the PLM Administration, as happened under the ALP regime. At no time during the PLM Administration were teachers beaten and brutalized by the police for seeking to promote and advance the cause of their professional Union, the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers.

There is clear evidence that a General Election is imminent in Antigua and Barbuda. But this must not be used as licence for Prime Minister Bird to abuse his power and use ABS Radio-TV to hurl insults and abuse at his political adversaries, at public expense. Let him resort to Radio ZDK, the Workers' Voice, or the political platforms, or give the Opposition EQUAL TIME on ABS Radio-TV.

GRINSPUN ADDRESSES CRITICISM OF ECONOMIC POLICIES

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 17 Feb 84 pp 24-26

[Interview with Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun by Pablo Martinez, in his office; date not specified]

[Text] [Question] The new government has been in office for 2 months now, and there are mounting signs of dissatisfaction with how the economy is doing. There are two critical areas in particular: wages and interest rates. Do you think that there are grounds for the criticism in these two areas?

[Answer] There are grounds for them in the case of wages. We are not satisfied with the wage level either, but we are doing all we can to raise it. Real income has been increasing, especially among the lower-income segments, which have benefited from increases in the fixed-sum payment and in the family and educational allotments. I would say that we government officials are the ones who are the most displeased about the wage situation, but we must also realize where the responsibility for this lies, because the economy we took over was a total disaster.

[Question] And what do you have to say about interest rates?

[Answer] Now that 60 days have past, it would be a good idea to analyze the issue objectively, without getting carried away by circumstantial matters. In less than 30 days we have gone from a rate of 15.5 to 12 percent, which is a major drop in nominal terms. And the inter-company rate, which was at 30 percent or more last December, has fallen to the official level. In other words, there has been a quite sharp decline in financial costs. We are not completely satisfied with this, of course, but we are on the right track.

[Question] The rescheduling of the foreign debt is one of the big unresolved question marks. The government has put forth its conditions, but the creditor banks have not given their final word. Is it possible to reschedule the debt without having to engage in an adjustment program that, under the orthodox approach, always adversely affects real wages and jobs?

[Answer] Let's make a few clarifications. Argentina has not yet put forth any conditions. We are at the beginning of a new fiscal year that will unfold over time, and we have not yet proposed conditions to anyone.

[Question] But a conceptual framework exists. You have said that you are not going to accept a rescheduling that requires a recessionary economic program or a policy that entails using wages as an adjustment variable.

[Answer] Yes. We are in agreement on that. That is the conceptual framework of this administration's economic policy. With regard to the foreign debt, we have not yet determined what amount will be refinanced, with whom, over what periods and at what rates. We are in a preparatory stage. We took office on 10 December, and the 15th was the deadline for the signing of the 33 state-run enterprises' contracts worth close to \$9 billion. A lot of things have happened since then, but we have not gotten to the end of this matter.

[Question] But can an adjustment be avoided?

[Answer] Let's not cause problems with words. We are engaged in a policy of very intense adjustments, including reductions in inflation, financial costs and government spending. But we do not want this to be at the expense of wages and the country's economic expansion.

[Question] In any case, budget policy and imports have a direct influence on the level of business activity and jobs, and the numbers that you eventually come up with will be more illustrative than any definition.

[Answer] No, absolutely not. You are overlooking a series of fundamental factors here. For example, income transfers among sectors. We have gotten used to the poor footing the bill for a misfortune in our country, and we are saying that all of us should pay for such misfortunes, especially those who can afford higher taxes.

[Question] You are bringing this about through the tax package and the government spending policy...

[Answer] Yes, and also with income policy, which includes wages and prices.

[Question] Can we expect then that there will be political frictions with the sectors that will have to make their contribution?

[Answer] That stands to reason. There are always costs, even though only benefits are distributed, because some people might not be satisfied with how much they receive. We are apportioning benefits and burdens, and it is going to be hard to make everyone happy. I would say that

everyone will have good reason to protest, and if we say that everyone is justified in doing so at the same time, then there will be no way to shoulder the burden. Therefore, we want to satisfy first the needs of the most underprivileged. Then we'll move up the social ladder.

[Question] Do you have your seat belts well fastened for that collision?

[Answer] Yes we do. And in response to the at times somewhat caustic comments about our economic policy, I would say that we are proceeding on the basis of a political blueprint, not ideologies or economic theories. We have fine experts, perhaps the finest in recent times in Argentina, but our basic objective is to strengthen democracy, and our response to economic problems will play a major role in this, of course.

[Question] You met with business representatives in the Panamericano Hotel before you took office. Didn't you try to reach an agreement to dampen price increases, but to little avail, as we saw in December?

[Answer] What we were looking at last November was a very rapid acceleration of price increases, and we warned them about hyperinflation. Unfortunately, the inflation projection in early December was 35 percent a month. We tried to prevent a repetition of this phenomenon, so that we would not have to take other steps, like the ones that we were later obliged to. We could not allow the country to slide into a process of hyperinflation, because that would destroy the chances of achieving a democratic government.

[Question] Will price controls continue or be replaced by some sort of understanding?

[Answer] There is a great deal of talk about an understanding, and some distinguished economists assert that everything can be taken care of through one. They have not clarified what the understanding entails nor at what levels it ought to be hammered out. I worked for a long time in the Multiparty Group, where there was quite a bit of talk about this issue, and I am in favor of an understanding in opposition to factional strife. But there are certain indispensable prerequisites. First there has to be a political agreement; second, the representatives of the various parties have to unify, and third we need masses of objective information so that people know what they are discussing. I do not yet see clear signs of any of these three elements.

[Question] Do you mean by this that some of the principals in an understanding first have to resolve their internal struggles?

[Answer] Not necessarily. In my opinion, all of us first have to adjust to the new situation. This goes for the people in government,

for those in the opposition and for the representatives of other economic and social sectors. As far as I'm concerned, I don't think that an understanding has to be reached every 2 days on every government action, because the functions that the constitution stipulates cannot be replaced by an agreement. The president cannot negotiate his powers, nor can Congress.

[Question] I make two assumptions in analyzing pricing policy. The first is that the anticipatory price increases in November and December have given companies a sort of cushion. The second has to do with the political power of this government, which the economic agents cannot defy with impunity. If these assumptions are true, as the cushion wears off, the controls lose effectiveness. What do you think in this regard?

[Answer] Our pricing policy allows adjustments. It says who can automatically adjust their prices, and it establishes who has to meet other requirements and what the mechanism is to update sales prices. Some companies might have a cushion, as you call it, and some might not, and some companies may think that they have the political power to impose their prices, but an objective mechanism is also being used and with good success. My impression is that there are no repressed prices, except for a special case here and there that will be analyzed as need be.

[Question] The IMF mission headed by Dr Wiesner Duran, the director for the Western Hemisphere, has come to Argentina. Do you continue to maintain that it is an information mission?

[Answer] That's what I maintain because that's what it is. There are those who say that the mission came to negotiate the standby agreement, but there are wrong. They came to gather the information that the fund customarily requests. In due time Argentina will or will not make the political decision to present a letter of intent to the IMF. That would mark the start of negotiations that might lead to a standby agreement. For the time being, however, I must say that one publication's assertion that we were already negotiating a standby agreement and that we had submitted a plan with guidelines different from the ones announced so far is untrue. No plan was submitted, for the simple reason that no such plan exists, and of course we have not drafted any letter of intent, because this is a decision that we will make in accordance with the budget data that we have just recently been receiving.

[Question] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo also spoke about the foreign debt issue in Quito. Some sectors concluded that his position introduced a degree of rigidity into the negotiations because he said that the international banks impose recessionary economic conditions on their debtors, which leads to social unrest. Do you agree with his view?

[Answer] In the speech that I read before the Council of the Americas in New York, speaking to the heads of banks, the main multinational corporations and international financial organizations, I outlined a position that is not essentially different from the one expressed by the foreign minister. This is the philosophy of the government, the entire government, including the president and all the ministers.

[Question] The representatives of international banks contend that Mexico is the model to imitate in the way it is straightening out its economy and that Argentina ought to adopt a similar program, because there is supposedly no need to fear social upheavals.

[Answer] In my opinion, this is a generalization that cannot be applied to Argentina. Mexico and Argentina are very different, and looking for forced similarities could lead to giving all of the patients the same medicine, with the risk of killing many of them. What we are doing is proposing a different sort of adjustment, because a country cannot live with 435 percent annual inflation, ever-declining real wages and per capita output so low that we have to search far back in our history to find a comparable level. But we are tackling the adjustment from a national viewpoint, and this is a sovereign decision of the Argentine people.

[Question] Do you feel that you have political backing, especially after the president delivered his famous speech at the Banco de la Provincia de Buenos Aires?

[Answer] Of course I feel that I have political backing, not only because of the president's public speeches but also because of the decisions that he makes every day. This is the policy of the government, not of the economy minister. Of course I feel happy as a minister, as an Argentine and as a Radical because of the president's words, because they mean that the president backs the government's policy.

[Question] Economy ministers have been the most criticized figures in recent governments. How do you live with this criticism?

[Answer] We have to differentiate between news and value judgments. There are some news reports that are not true, that have no basis in fact. All I am asking is that the news be accurate, and then everyone can make all of the value judgments they want. There is freedom of expression now.

[Question] Hasn't your job as minister forced you to become somewhat isolated from people, dragging you away from your former lifestyle?

[Answer] I'm among people the whole day. I go to the movies, to restaurants and I go out with my family and with friends without any sort of problem. I have less time than before; that's all. Last weekend I went to dine at a restaurant near my home and since I am a friend of the waiters, I talked about politics with them. A customer

from another table even came over and said what he thought. I'm the same as always. It wouldn't be worth it to change at this point in my life, now that I'm 58 years old.

[Question] Don't you feel that your territory is being infringed on when the planning secretary announces certain economic measures such as the latest wage increase or when a team is formed to renegotiate the foreign debt?

[Answer] I myself formed that team because I feel that that is how we have to work. The point is to link up the various functions in just the right way, and if this has not been done in some cases, it is because we still have to take care of several details. There are no personal jurisdictions in this government. We work in constant contact with the members of the socioeconomic cabinet and, of course, with the president, who instead of finding out about ministerial decisions in the papers, orders those decisions himself.

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CSO: 3348/283

CGT LEADER UBALDINI EXPOUNDS OBJECTIONS TO LABOR REFORMS

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 3 Feb 84 p 13

[Commentary by Saul Ubaldini: "The State Should Not Interfere"]

[Text] Any discussion of the trade union bill and its potential link with the future professional associations law demands a prior clarification the primary goal of which is to duly enlighten public opinion in general about this issue, which, naturally, has vast repercussions. It could not be otherwise, inasmuch as the future of labor organizations is being discussed. In this as in so many other matters, it thus becomes essential to distinguish between the wheat and the chaff, between words and actions, between statements and true intentions. So then, applying the above to the union normalization bill, I think that it would simplistic to believe that the government's proposal on this specific issue has only one goal; on the contrary, I would say that it has various goals in mind.

The government's union restructuring bill aims at intervention in the labor movement as a whole through the Labor Ministry, with the intention of getting the State involved directly or indirectly in the internal life of labor organizations, with a view towards eventually installing leaders who are allied with the ruling party or who at least will serve the policy chosen for this important sector, labor. In a nutshell, however, I can say without fear of error that under the pretext of union freedom and democracy the administration is pushing a bill that denies both these principles because it violates not only our bylaws but also international agreements arising from the ILO.

Moreover, there are two fundamental reasons why there can be no link between this bill and the future professional associations law that will have to be enacted. The first is because this administration bill is nothing more than Law 22,105 of the military dictatorship. This in itself makes further comments unnecessary. It is paradoxical, however, that the message accompanying the bill asserts that "it is not a question" of a group of experts proposing a new theoretical law, because we see no evidence that the workers were even consulted in the drafting of this bill.

It bears emphasizing that the Executive Branch's bill, which is supposedly temporary, does not call for time limits, thus enabling the interventors to prolong the call for elections as long as they deemed appropriate. Moreover, this is more than just a normalization bill. It also legislates on the essential issue, which ought to be dealt with in the future professional associations law. Thus, if Congress passes the bill, the people's representatives will be legitimizing the dictatorship's law, in spite of the opposition of all the sectors in our country, which spoke out through the Multiparty Group against this de facto, illegitimate and totalitarian law.

The Argentine labor movement is not opposed to a union normalization, which it has been calling for since 1976. Furthermore, in its own bill, which it recently submitted to Congress through the Parliamentary Liaison Commission of the CGT [General Confederation of Labor], it requests a union normalization over a period not to exceed 120 days.

Now then, many people are wondering to what extent the union bill can guarantee true labor democracy, what effects it will have on the national union structure and what the consequences will be of incorporating minorities and abolishing certain restrictions on running candidates.

With regard to the democratization of the unions, I want to make it clear that we workers are the first to demand this. Therefore, democracy is possible only if the workers are allowed to decide everything relating to the internal life of their labor organization.

The Executive Branch's bill violates the principle of union freedom established in Article 14 of the national constitution, as well as international agreements that our country has signed (87, ILO). Thus, one does not have to be all that clever to realize that given the lack of specific responses to the critical wage situation in which we find ourselves, the administration is trying to gain time in every way it can, and this bill unfortunately seems to be one of them.

As to the issue of minority representation, it bears emphasizing that the labor movement is not opposed to their being represented at any of the organization's levels of deliberation. What we are opposed to is the imposition of this by the Executive Branch. Some organizations, such as Light and Power, have bylaws that for more than 20 years now allow for two minorities, not just one. It must be the workers, through their highest deliberative bodies, not the Labor Ministry, who, in accordance with the characteristics of each organization, draft their own bylaws, which will ultimately govern this issue. With regard to the traditional backing for presenting lists of candidates, we feel that this is an indispensable prerequisite for responsible elections.

We also feel as labor leaders that 2 years on the job, as stipulated in Law 20,615, is a reasonable requirement for seeking union office. If this requirement were reduced, upstarts with management assistance could have access to union office. Nevertheless, for obvious reasons it is absolutely necessary to exempt from this requirement those of our comrades who were dismissed for political and/or labor reasons after 24 March 1976; they can run for office at the head of or on any list, as stipulated in the bill that the CGT has submitted to the various blocs.

As to keeping the trade unions for now, all of the country's social and political sectors agree that there should be one union per activity and a single CGT. It would be absurd to make changes in something that the working class has achieved over time through its struggle.

The administration apparently seeks to professionalize activities in the country, and this includes the unions. Nevertheless, in this as in so many other matters, we must look at what the real facts are. I would like to recall what I pointed out at the beginning of this commentary: this is a many-faceted bill. In the short run it seeks to create an atmosphere conducive to thwarting union action on the working class's legitimate and urgent grievances. Once this has been achieved, all indications are that the administration would then try to "Radicalize" the labor movement. I want to make it clear that I am not making this up; a young deputy from the ruling party stated as much himself several days ago in this very newspaper.

Much Fairer

The law enacted during the last constitutional government (20,615) was something that the workers wanted throughout the military regime, and we felt that we had really achieved something when it was passed. We are therefore asking that it be implemented. We acknowledge that changes could be made in it insofar as it is not in keeping with today's conditions. We are convinced, however, that it is a much fairer and more reasonable starting point than an instrument of the dictatorship, which Law 22,105 unquestionably is, except, of course, if the current administration shares the philosophy that this law reflects.

The Argentine labor movement was the sector hardest hit by the regime installed on 24 March 1976, when the constitutional government of the Argentine people was overthrown. It was the workers who exerted a decisive influence, thanks to their drive and degree of organization, in the return to democracy. Although we acknowledge that the movement is now passing through a difficult period, six million votes are significant here and anywhere else in the world. Thus, the administration would be making a serious political mistake if it ignored this objective fact.

Hunger and unemployment, with all they entail, demand a clear-cut, unambiguous course of action. First and foremost come the needs of the workers as a group.

As a final thought, I appeal to the government to see the light and revoke all of the labor legislation that the dictatorship imposed. Only through full employment and decent wages we will succeed in establishing democracy and undertaking the noble task of national unity.

(Saul Ubaldini is one of the secretaries general of the CGT.)

8743

CSO: 3348/283

GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO MAINTAIN INITIATIVE IN ECONOMIC SPHERE

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 19 Feb 84 pp 8-9

[Text] The presence of Minister Grinspun in Congress and on the balcony of the Government Palace during the rally in support of the union restructuring bill, the meeting that President Alfonsin and most of his cabinet held last Tuesday with the Radical governors and, most importantly, Alfonsin's speech in Ensenada had the following element in common this week: the economy.

As much as to avoid getting left behind as anything else, the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] noticed this common thread and once again voiced its desire for an audience with the president of the republic. It made its original request before Alfonsin's trip to Caracas, when the issue of union reforms was riding the crest of the wave.

But the CGT changed its approach this time. The labor leaders had originally called attention to the bill now being processed in the Chamber of Deputies as one of the reasons for requesting the audience. They did not mention that this time but did make frequent references to the socioeconomic situation.

After the demonstration on Friday the 10th, it would seem that the current top echelon of the labor movement concluded that they had to again unfurl the old banners and not exhaust their efforts on the offensive against the union restructuring bill.

This change of course, or at least the change in approach from one request to the other, represents a sort of signal that the administration must surely have noticed.

Along with the president and the UCR [Radical Civic Union] governors, the entire cabinet, except Ministers Borrás and Caputo, attended the meeting in Olivos on Tuesday night.

Politics was, of course, discussed, and the governors probably made their views known. But the discussions revolved mainly around economic issues. One of the governors in attendance stated that Minister

Troccoli and Planning Secretary Juan V. Sorrouille were the two men who made the best impression in reporting on the political and economic landscape.

Alfonsin's colleagues in government and the president himself obviously realize where most of the criticism is being directed at the moment and are therefore attempting to take the initiative.

"The administration was on the offensive in almost all fields, except the economy, where it adopted a rather defensive stand," a political observer asserted on Friday, repeating what had already been said in connection with the president's speech at the Banco Provincia: "It is not necessary for Alfonsin to come out and defend his economic policy like that, because he is exposing himself to an erosion of support that he ought to avoid."

An Important Day

At the Olivos meeting with the governors, Troccoli exhibited a document drafted by the economic team on the decline in tax revenues, the government's main source of real funds.

According to the document, on the basis of an index of 100 in 1980, the Federal Capital was down to 91 in 1981, 67 in 1982 and 50 in 1983. The document described the situation in some provinces as "shocking," San Juan, for example, where the index fell from 100 in 1980 to 36 last year.

But it was Thursday that the president's men described as a significant day, referring both to Alfonsin's address in Ensenada and the rally in Congress Square and later in Mayo Square.

In Ensenada, Raul Alfonsin once again voiced support for the administration's economic policy in a speech that his followers have called as important as the ones that he delivered in La Recoleta during the homage to Arturo Illia and at the Banco Provincia.

In spite of misgivings over the erosion of support that this might cause, Alfonsin's advisers say that this is his style and that in the final accounting the president cannot just sign decrees and have nothing to do with economic policy. "This happened under the military governments, when economy ministers were used like fuses," assert sources in the Casa Rosada.

Alfonsin realizes that in any event his economy minister, who is in charge of pursuing the administration's economic policy, cannot just be left to his fate so that, if things go poorly, he can say: "He made mistakes. I'm going to get rid of him."

The main idea, therefore, is to do away with the image or the concept that a minister is a "fuse." There are obviously a great many hurdles in carrying out this task, but the president has already taken the first few steps down that road.

Alfonsin's speech in Ensenada had another audience: the MID [Integration and Development Movement], which had recently voiced public criticism of his economic policy.

When Alfonsin said that straightening out the economy could be tantamount to planting a time bomb in Argentina, he was clearly talking about the MID document.

There is no question that as far as the government is concerned, the MID proposal is feasible only under an authoritarian regime, and this is why some men in the ruling party have cited the example of the Conintes Plan in recent days.

While Grinspun remains on the spot, the men on the economic team rally behind his appointment, asserting that "we need a tough approach to deal with a difficult problem like the foreign debt."

The government is using this approach to hammer out an agreement with the IMF. The crucial point for the administration, however, is to see to it that an agreement does not provide for supervision by the fund.

Alfonsin's speech in Ensenada and Grinspun's participation in the Mayo Square rally are signs that on Thursday the government began attempting more serious countermoves in the economic arena. It would seem that the Casa Rosada has decided that now is the time to defend its economic program.

Not Anti-Peronism

Hence the description of Thursday as a significant day. The intention was to make it known that an administration counteroffensive had begun. If he waited until now, Alfonsin's supporters say, it is because he wanted to demonstrate that he was not playing anti-Peronist politics, either with the union restructuring bill or with the UTA [Motor Transport Workers Union] strike.

As concerns mounted about the economy, the administration was in a position this weekend to point to successes in other no less important areas.

First of all, there is the settlement of the conflict created by the UTA. "The matter worried Alfonsin a great deal, but he declined to take tough action," a UCR source asserted. One of the key elements in the administration's strategy to dampen the impact of the work

stoppage was its effective plan for emergency service, under the direct responsibility of Transport Secretary Daniel Batalla.

Another was to allow things to run their course among the ranks of the UTA. As the government waited patiently by, the arguments faded away, and from within the union itself there arose doubts that reached to its highest echelon.

But Thursday ended quite differently than it began for Alfonsin, although the economy was also part of the backdrop to what went on in Mayo Square. More precisely, it surrounded the balcony of Government Palace from which Alfonsin spoke. It was not the balcony that Peron customarily used, nor the one that Galtieri used. Be that as it may, some noted, it was a balcony still and all.

The huge demonstration in both Congress Square and Mayo Square was, in any event, a clear indication that the UCR still has the capacity to mobilize that it demonstrated during the presidential campaign.

Minister Grinspun's presence is something that should not be underestimated. Nor should we overlook the significance of the demonstration outside Congress. "How many blue-collar workers were there in the demonstration?" some factions of Peronism asked.

The question is a valid one. But it is also valid to pose the question in connection with the rally called by the CGT for Thursday the 10th. A sincere, dispassionate response could lead to the conclusion that the workers are concerned about things other than the union restructuring.

Other questions about the same issue are also valid. For example: What exactly is a worker? What criterion do we use to determine who is or is not a blue-collar worker? And in particular, in 1984, what exactly is a blue-collar worker?

To comment that there were not many workers present and to ask how many blue-collar workers were at last Thursday's demonstrations reflect typically classist views that history has left behind.

What in 1945 was a distinction in keeping with the times no longer carries the same meaning today. Labor structures have changed a great deal since then.

The President or the Candidate?

When Raul Alfonsin showed his face in Mayo Square from one of the Casa Rosada's balconies, he too was incurring a risk: that a president's speech might turn into a candidate's harangue.

But few doubted that Alfonsin would be able to choose the right words. This is one of the greatest virtues of a politician: not to speak out of turn nor to use words inappropriate to the occasion.

The president finally emerged and, carefully gauging every remark, kept the candidate at a distance, thus resisting a temptation that government leaders, be they politicians or military officers, do not always conquer.

His appeal for unity and his careful avoidance of any suspicion of partisanship were an attempt to place the issue of a union restructuring above party matters.

This marks a change in attitude, and of course in the wake of Alfonsin's speech the situation is not the same as last week, when the Chamber of Deputies was in the midst of its debates.

Hence, the president has decided to engage the representatives of the CGT in a dialogue that will certainly not be limited to the union restructuring. It promises to be much broader, and the hope is that it will also help to relax the tensions that arose as a result of the episodes in the Chamber of Deputies.

A Trip South

Another success that the administration could point to as the week closed was the arrest of Mario Firmenich in Brazil and the extradition request filed by the Argentine Government. Another extradition request went out for Vice Admiral Chamorro, who is now in South Africa.

It is indeed food for thought that a democratically elected government has achieved what regimes that have a reputation as being strong were unable to.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli traveled to Trelew to preside over a meeting of Patagonia governors. The economy also emerged as a basic issue there.

It would be naive, however, not to assume that one of Troccoli's many meetings will be with Felipe Sapag, the leader of the Neuquen Popular Movement, whose stand on the union restructuring bill will be of key importance when the Senate takes it up.

Troccoli will offer Sapag some clarifications on the figure of the administrator. He will also no doubt hear Sapag's concerns about this matter. But there was considerable optimism in the Interior Ministry over the weekend.

According to Troccoli, Sapag's observations are fairly well taken care of by the amendments introduced in the lower house. In particular, during the transition period the union representation will remain in the hands of a commission, not of the normalizing delegate.

But no one in government is taking his eyes off the economy. "We are in the critical period for making adjustments," said a Casa Rosada official. The critical period apparently includes the political decision to take the initiative in this area as well, as the administration has already done in others.

FOUR SATELLITES, MAN IN SPACE CITED AS GOAL BY 1992

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Feb 84 p 14

[Article by Jose Eustaquio de Freitas]

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo--The recent visit to Brazil by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz accelerated the pace of work on Brazil's space programs. Those programs are being carried out at the Aerospace Technology Center [CTA] and the National Institute of Space Research [INPE], which occupy adjoining plots of land in Sao Jose dos Campos. Work is being done--with sparse funds--on two fronts: the launching of four satellites (two meteorological satellites and two for the remote sensing of mineral resources) and the preparation of a Brazilian to be sent into space by NASA. Those goals are to be achieved by 1992.

The two Brazilian institutions devoted to space research and science--one military (the Aerospace Technology Center) and the other civilian (the National Institute of Space Research, operated by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq))--have tried to take timely advantage of the opportunity to train an astronaut or to send a payload specialist into space on the U.S. space shuttle. Six candidates have already emerged at the National Institute of Space Research.

The INPE views the situation as providing a big opportunity to strengthen the institution and to confer on the Brazilian space program the priority which has been affirmed in many speeches in recent years but which has not been backed up by budget appropriations or by the country's policy on science and technology. The program calls for the launching of four satellites beginning in 1989--at the rate of one per year--to obtain meteorological information and conduct research on natural resources. Brazil currently uses the services of American satellites--GOES for meteorology and Landsat for the remote sensing of natural resources. Within the next few months, it will also receive images from SPOT, the French natural resources prospecting satellite.

Space Mission

The Brazilian Complete Space Mission, as the program is known, is scheduled to run for 13 years from the time of its approval in 1979. All its activities are

controlled and supervised by the Brazilian Commission on Space Activities, which is headed by the Armed Forces chief of staff, currently Lt Gen Waldir Vasconcellos. The budgeted cost of the mission is \$250 million, with 90 percent of the funds being provided by the National Treasury and the rest consisting of dollars obtained through foreign loans.

The Complete Space Mission did not start receiving funds until 1982, when the INPE and the CTA were able to hire more researchers and set up part of the necessary infrastructure.

The INPE is responsible for developing the satellites. The first, which will be a meteorological satellite, will weigh about 150 kilograms and operate as a central station. It will receive meteorological data collected on Earth, process the data in digital form, and retransmit them to a central ground station that will be built in Sao Jose dos Campos. The data will be collected from a network of over 2,000 completely automatic data collecting platforms (DCP's). The DCP's have already been developed by the INPE and are now in the industrialization phase. The second satellite, not much more modern, will also be for meteorological purposes.

The third and fourth satellites, to be launched in 1991 and 1993, will be earth resource sensing satellites. The development of this equipment is based on the most modern technology in use in the world. The satellites, when placed over Brazilian territory--and remaining stationary in relation to a point on Earth--will follow an orbit 728 kilometers high. They will be used to photograph the Earth with a resolution of 40 meters--that is, each point on the image obtained will be the equivalent of 40 meters on the Earth's surface. Applications: crop forecasting, monitoring large-scale ecological disasters, monitoring reforested areas or the devastation of forests, providing assistance in town planning, and detecting minerals in the subsoil--such as petroleum, copper, zinc, aluminum, titanium, uranium, and so on.

Camera

During a visit to Brazil almost 2 years ago, U.S. President Ronald Reagan issued an invitation for a Brazilian to participate in an American space mission. The Technical Aeronautics Institute was the first to offer to train the astronaut, and based on that offer, it reached an agreement with the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology calling for intensive cooperation in the areas of space and data processing.

The INPE, which has old cooperation agreements with NASA in the scientific field, submitted several proposals, the chief one being a proposal to conduct tests in 1987 with an observation camera now being developed for Brazil's first earth resources satellite. The proposal was accepted by NASA, since on that same mission, the Americans are going to test a superpowerful radar that will record information concerning Earth from an altitude of 300 kilometers. In that way, NASA and Brazil can cooperate in a single mission--at lower cost--for photographs to be taken by the Brazilian camera and by microwave radar.

Two serious problems have existed since the start of the Brazilian space program. The first concerns the allocation of funds, since budget requests are submitted in June, but the appropriation does not arrive until March of the following year.

Physicist Nelson Parada, director of the INPE, says: "With 'space-age' inflation like ours, what we receive today has lost the real value it had 8 months ago--in other words, it is insufficient for half of the planned expenditures."

The second problem, according to experts at the Aerospace Technology Center, has to do with the acquisition of technology abroad.

Many items entering into the construction of the satellites and the launch vehicle could be developed in Brazil, but it would be very time consuming and expensive to do so. Even though it is a priority program, the space mission is being hurt by the rules restricting imports. A few weeks ago, the Special Secretariat on Data Processing sent directors to Sao Jose dos Campos to present the official apologies of the secretariat, whose technicians, not understanding the specifications on a number of electronic components and thinking that some data processors had similar domestically produced components, had blocked imports that had been requested by the scientists.

Launch Vehicle

At the CTA, development of the Satellite Launch Vehicle (VLS) is also facing problems and is significantly behind schedule. Despite an official denial by the CTA, it is known that some segments of the rocket's inertial guidance unit, which were to have been manufactured in Brazil, cannot be produced here. Several other instruments, such as gyroscopes, will have to be imported. The Brazilian Commission on Space Activities has even studied the possibility of launching the Brazilian satellites with the French Ariane rocket. There is contradictory information at the CTA: management claims that the VLS will be ready in 1989, but some technicians feel that there will not be time between now and then to test the instrument, which they say will not be operational until 3 years later.

Both institutions deplore and criticize Brazil's decision to acquire the communications satellite BRASILSAT from Canada. According to the most recent plans, that satellite will be launched in February of next year.

Off the Shelf

Nelson Parada says: "It is a satellite 'off the shelf,' and we will never become familiar with it because the Spar firm is only going to train teams to operate the satellite and keep it in operation--it is not going to transfer any technology."

France, on the contrary, had made an offer that included a technology transfer 10 times greater than that included in the Canadian offer. Dissatisfied with the result of the international bidding as conducted by the Ministry of Communications, France also refused to transfer technology and know-how concerning

its Ariane rocket, which will launch BRASILSAT next year. The result was a setback for the CTA, which had counted on using that technology to build the VLS.

Another difficulty is that of keeping the teams of technicians. In recent months the INPE has lost the three chief coordinators of the development program for Brazilian satellites. The reason is that other firms, chiefly those in the fields of armament, space, and data processing, offer researchers salaries up to five times higher. An individual with a doctorate earns 940,000 cruzeiros at the INPE, although it is true that he receives 14 months of pay per year. At the CTA, technicians working on the same project earn 1.8 million cruzeiros in addition to perks, housing, and other benefits. In the arms industry, salaries go as high as 3 million cruzeiros.

Satellite's Secret: Optical System

The earth resources satellite's manner of operation is relatively simple, but it involves the most advanced technology. Its chief instrument is the earth observation camera, a sophisticated optical system that keeps permanent watch on the Earth through its main lenses, which move in successive horizontal lines to form a complete picture of a particular area. In a single pass, it photographs areas of up to 180 kilometers in extent, producing a mosaic containing all information on the region in question. It was thanks to an observation of that kind, for example, that it was possible to make several corrections to the map of Brazil by altering contours and determining the country's actual frontier points.

The satellite has two main channels. One uses the visible spectrum--it photographs everything emitting visible light--and the other is thermal, recording infrared radiations and thus obtaining information on temperatures on the Earth's surface. It will also have four spectral bands--that is, it will record four primary colors, making various combinations possible. It is the integration of those bands which enables computers on Earth to interpret the images produced by the satellite. Scientists can then determine, on the photograph, the differences between the objects photographed. For instance, if the satellite's thermal camera records a higher-than-normal temperature in a planted area, it means that the vegetation is not healthy. The combination of bands and temperatures also makes it possible to separate different objects in the same photograph. For example, they easily distinguish forests from planted areas, sugarcane from rice, soybeans from wheat, and so on.

The INPE and the CTA have transformed Brazil into a developed country in the field of space science.

Physicist Nelson Parada says: "We talk to the United States or to France as equals. For the past 10 years we have had cooperation agreements with NASA in the United States, a country from which we receive a lot but to which we also transfer a great deal of scientific information."

Barreira do Inferno

Natal--In its nearly 19 years of activity, the Barreira do Inferno Launch Center (CLBI) in Natal has been involved in 16 projects with NASA for a total of 48 operations in which 345 rockets have been launched. The Barreira do Inferno center was established by ministerial decree in October 1965 and placed under the Ministry of Air's Research and Development Department (DEPED).

In addition to launching various kinds of rockets and balloons, the CLBI is equipped for satellite tracking, telemetering, telecommunications, trajectography, and administrative links, thus guaranteeing its participation in international programs (Ariane, Bime, Colored Bubbles, NASA, AFGI, Max Planck, and ASE).

The Nike Apache rocket was launched at Barreira do Inferno in December 1965, thus inaugurating the country's space launching activities. To date, over 2,000 rockets have been launched as part of Brazilian and foreign programs.

However, the growth of housing developments in Natal next to the launch area is going to prevent the launching of large rockets from the base's platforms.

Alcantara Prepares for Launchings

Sao Luis--Unlike Barreira do Inferno, which is regarded only as a testing ground, Alcantara in Maranhao is to be the site of the first launching base for purely Brazilian rockets, especially those of the Sonda IV type. At a planned investment of \$180 million, the Brazilian Government intends to develop an assembly program for four remote-sensing satellites that Sonda IV is going to place in orbit by 1990.

Located on an area of 520 million square meters, the integrated project for establishing the Alcantara Launch Center (CLA) is at an advanced stage of completion. The current status has not been disclosed by experts and officials at the Ministry of Air, nor have they said when it will begin operating.

The Alcantara project will involve specialists in various fields of knowledge since the problems to be confronted call for a great diversity of activities. What the public has learned is that most of the infrastructure projects are progressing on schedule, including the resettlement of homesteaders who once lived and worked on the land within the area expropriated for the project.

Col Armando Varao Monteiro of the engineers, who is director of the Group to Establish the Alcantara Launch Center, has disclosed that normal operations will begin as early as 1986 with the launching of experimental rockets, but he explains that the CLA will not be completely finished by then because it is an ambitious project that is being carried out with much care and caution and also because of the economic realities being experienced by the country.

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CSO: 3342/73

PT HEAD ON BRASILIA MARCH; NOTE TERMS GOVERNMENT DECADENT

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 19 Feb 84 p 7

/Article by special correspondent Gilberto Dimenstein: "Lula Does Not Fear the Military and Will Hold the March"

/Text/ Sao Paulo--"If we allow ourselves to be scared to death of the military, we shall have to live out our lives with our arms folded," Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva, chairman of the PT /Workers Party/, told CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in an exclusive interview yesterday. In other words: with or without a threat to decree emergency measures, the PT is going to mobilize public opinion to join in the march on Brasilia for the restoration of direct elections to choose the president of the republic. Moreover, the demonstration will be scheduled to take place on the day the vote is taken on the Dante de Oliveira amendment. "Brasilia," he said, "is not somebody's private property--somebody's private ranch or estate. It is we who--with our taxes--support this city, and it is there that we have the right to hold peaceful demonstrations," he declared.

Seemingly in high spirits, Lula continued in the same vein, for he loves high-sounding phrases. Even when he wins his case, his friends say, he wastes no opportunity for a good harangue. For the listless polemic of President Joao Figueiredo he had words of approval. "I think it's a good idea, a very good idea, that Figueiredo isn't working very hard. In the light of the most recent measures he has taken in respect to the economy, I believe the less often he goes to Planalto Palace and goes on his sentimental journeys there, the better for the people--and the less reason we'll have to be angry." As he concluded his remarks he looked at his aides, but merely smiled with satisfaction.

He has reason to be in good spirits: his prestige is growing rapidly. It was he who got the most applause at the mass meeting in the Praca da Se--this man who after abandoning his trade union activities had appeared to be somewhat "out of it," especially after the elections had yielded the PT very few votes. The explanation is simple, however: Lula is virtually the only opposition leader who is standing his ground. The PMDB /Brazilian Democratic Movement Party/ is suffering from serious problems, and the PDS /Social Democratic Party/ is lying low. He accordingly emphasizes, in sterner tones: "I'm not afraid of the emergency measures. I've always felt myself to be under pressure. The worker has always lived in a state of emergency, fearful of losing

and of not having enough money to put food on the table. The worker, in short, has always had a Newton Cruz out in front."

You have for example his criticism of Minister of Justice Ibrahim Abi-Ackel, who favored the decreeing of emergency measures. "He's overbearing," Lula said; "that's typical of someone who isn't used to dealing with the people. "I believe that if Brasilia doesn't go to the people, the people must go to Brasilia." Moreover, Lula is an optimist. "The mobilization of the people is gaining strength geometrically, amid a clear determination to struggle for the return of direct elections." He also declared that it was quite possible there would be a union of all the trade union leaderships, which are currently divided between the CUT [Sole Central Organization of Workers] and CONCLAT [National Conference of the Working Classes]: "I was very pleased at Joaquim's statement to CORREIO BRAZILIENSE," he said. "This shows that unity is possible."

As for the accusation that the movement for direct elections is being led by communist groups, he responded with two adjectives--"imbecilic" and "ridiculous"--and added sarcastically: "I think either Andreazza or Maluf ought to hire an advertising agency to deal with this mobilization of the people. This story to the effect that the communists are behind it will no longer wash. I am therefore recommending that Andreazza and Maluf hire some professionals. What I am saying is that the communists have the right to take part in these mass meetings. What we can't do is pick a quarrel with the color red. Just because they put up huge flags doesn't mean that they are leading the movement."

The PT chairman urged that the military not conceal in their ranks those who fear a judicial investigation because they may have committed irregularities. "He who owes nothing fears nothing," Lula said. "I believe that many military personnel who are guilty of something are indeed afraid of direct elections and are striving to retain the same system and same people in power--in short, to retain the same impunity. The armed forces cannot--and I believe the immense majority of the military do not want to--take part in a process that has no credibility.

"There are also many persons," he said, "who want to continue--with impunity--to make insidious comparisons between Brazil and Argentina. The actual situation is quite different. We must, in some way, investigate the conduct of public affairs and fix responsibilities. There are those who would confuse justice with revenge.

"A dangerous process is under way," he warned. "The whole world knows that this Electoral College will be the target of bribery, improper proposals and corruption. I do not believe the armed forces can endorse this process. I fear," he added, "that the armed forces do not feel themselves ready to turn over the reins of power. There must be many in the military who are disturbed by this avalanche--by this struggle for a return to direct elections. I believe there need be no concern, however. This is a clean, aboveboard, honest movement to help Brazil grow."

The PT chairman rules out any participation by his party in the Electoral College in the event the Dante de Oliveira amendment is not approved. "That would be hypocritical," he said. "Whenever we take the stump we criticize the Electoral College savagely. We cannot participate in this farce--this prostitution of the electoral process." His opinion of Maluf and Andreazza: "They're the same, both in form and in content."

PT Statement Says Government Is Decadent

Sao Paulo (By special correspondent)--The national executive committee of the Workers Party, following a meeting in Sao Paulo, has issued a sharply worded statement. It calls the Figueiredo administration "decadent" and alleges that after a meeting with the presidential candidates "it attempted to intimidate the nation by bringing about a resurgence of certain pressures and threats demanded by what remains of the weakened and moribund system of forces that have held power since 1964. The real threat that hovers over the National Congress," he said, "is the corruption put into practice by presidential candidates who buy votes and consciences in their zeal to win power." The statement also asks for the creation of a national commission--representing all the opposition parties--with a view to the campaign for direct elections, and announces that a meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday in Brasilia.

Following is the complete text of the statement:

The enormous distance that separates the decadent government of General Figueiredo from the aspirations of the Brazilian people was demonstrated once again at the meeting held this week in Planalto Palace between President Figueiredo and the so-called "presidential candidates" of the PDS.

Feeling the pressure of the public demonstrations that throughout the nation are demanding direct elections, the president of the republic--speaking in the name of the military ministers--attempted to intimidate the nation by bringing about a resurgence of certain pressures and threats demanded by what remains of the weakened and moribund system of forces that have held power since 1964.

The Workers Party believes that the political opening is a victory for the Brazilian people, not a concession by those who are exercising power illegally, and for this reason believe that direct elections for president of the republic will come to pass inevitably, not as a gift from those who are in power but as a victory won by the people.

Threats and intimidatory tactics will be unable to interrupt the legitimate exercise of the right to demonstrate. It is not the mass meetings, demonstrations, parades and marches that can be characterized as pressure on the National Congress, which has the power to approve the constitutional amendment that reestablishes the right to vote. The source of the pressure and violence against the members of the Brazilian Congress is the attitude of the regime

as demonstrated at the meeting in Planalto Palace and in the statements by ministers and leaders of the PDS. The attempts to diminish the scope of the campaign by resorting to old anticommunist cliches will fall on deaf ears. The real threat that hovers over the National Congress is the corruption practiced by "presidential candidates" who buy votes and consciences in their zeal to win power.

The Workers Party reaffirms the importance, and the necessity, of still further intensifying and popularizing the campaign for direct elections, and calls on the other political forces to stand firm in pursuing their objective of achieving direct elections, as follows:

1. The holding, on 21 February, of a meeting in Brasilia between the chairmen of the political parties and their respective congressional leaderships, with a view to the creation of an entity to effect the unified coordination of the campaign, said entity to consist of representatives of the various segments of society that are enlisted in the campaign.

2. The designation of a national holiday for the holding of the direct elections, in which the entire population shall actively participate.

3. The creation of state, municipal, district and sectorial committees, in order that the campaign will be truly broad-based rather than representing this or that isolated force. On the one hand you have the Brazilian people, who desire to elect the president and are striving to attain this goal; on the other side you have those who still hold power and are attempting to ensure their continuation in power without the consent of the nation."

The campaign for direct elections must continue and must grow stronger every day. It will not end with the vote on the first constitutional amendment in the Congress; for us in the PT there is no date for the conclusion of the campaign, which will end on the day when all the voters are depositing their ballots in the ballot boxes. The vote--scheduled for April--on the constitutional amendment in the congress is a moment of extreme significance in this struggle, and the people have the right to witness it peacefully. The PT will therefore be present in Brasilia on that day, not only in the person of its congressional delegation but also in the person of its executive committees and the presence of its members at the mass meetings; and the party urges the other political forces and organizations that represent Brazilian society to be present.

The Workers Party is convinced that the elections will now be held, despite the tactics of pressure and intimidation by those who are in collusion with the corruption, with the policy of subservience to the International Monetary Fund, and with the unbridled inflation that is bringing hunger and poverty to the Brazilian people.

The PT reaffirms that no official veto is capable of holding back the aspirations of the people; it reaffirms that the campaign does not belong to any particular political force but is instead an expression of the profound aspirations of all the Brazilian people.

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CSO: 3342/76

GOLD PRODUCTION GOAL SET AT 200 TONS ANNUALLY

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 Feb 84 p 11

[Article by Milton F. da Rocha]

[Text] Sao Paulo--With a production of 79.4 tons of gold in 1983, Brazil is now the world's third largest producer and is preparing to place on the market, within 5 years, a total of 200 tons per year, according to the 5-year plan of the National Department of Mineral Production. This information was disclosed yesterday by businessmen connected with the gold mining and marketing sector.

Last year the leading nation in terms of gold production continued to be South Africa with 630 tons, followed by the Soviet Union with 400 tons. After Brazil came Canada with 47 tons and the United States with 45 tons, according to surveys made by official institutions of these countries and distributed among the businessmen.

Forecast

The forecast for this year--according to these businessmen--is for Brazil to increase its gold production by at least 20 percent. At the present time 2 tons are marketed per month, consisting of the purchases by private companies and by the Federal Savings Bank. The principal center of production in Brazil is Umaru, Para.

The businessmen point out that there are "harvests" of gold in our country: 25 percent of the total production takes place from January to June, and 75 percent from June to December. Approximately 85 percent of the gold produced comes from goldfields and the remaining 15 percent from mines. Production is less in the first half of the year because of the heavy rainfall.

Industrial groups such as Monteiro Aranha, Paranapanema, Reserva and Brumadinho carry out the gold prospecting and mining operations.

Change in Profile of Gold Investor

According to research by the Reserva Company, which markets gold in Sao Paulo, there has been a change in the profile of the investor in the Brazilian gold market.

Three years ago, 70 percent of gold sales by the principal companies were made to natural persons and 30 percent to juristic persons. Two years ago a change took place: natural persons now represented 50 percent of the market and juristic persons 50 percent.

The research shows that juristic persons (companies) today represent 70 percent of sales and natural persons 30 percent. A number of large multinational corporations are included among those companies buying Brazilian gold of 999.9 percent purity.

According to these businessmen, there are prospects for an increase in sales in the Rio de Janeiro gold market. The local commodities exchange is scheduled to begin gold marketing operations in mid-1984.

Reserva Markets Bar With Italian "Design"

Sao Paulo--The Reserva Mining Company will invest \$3 million in the production of gold in a 40,000-hectare area on the Crepori River in Para, it was announced yesterday by Marcos Albuquerque Cavalcanti, managing director of the company, who promised to intensify gold sales to investors. Among the new marketing strategies of the company is the introduction of gold bars of a "design" developed by Italian designer Lucio Grinover.

The gold with the new "design" will be marketed beginning immediately; it will henceforth have a purity of 999.9 percent and come in ~~weights of~~ 1,000, 500, 250, 100, 50 and 25 grams. Reserva will continue to market the gold produced by the Degussa Company, which is its partner in smelting operations with a tradition of 100 years in the sector. The Reserva gold will also be marketed in Rio, according to William Martins, director of operations of the company.

Marketing

William Martins said that the idea to create a new design for the gold bars is intended to create interest in the market. "It is a new kind of 'marketing,'" he said. "We have been in the market for 4 1/2 years. We were the first, and we have a duty to innovate and offer something different of the same quality." According to Marcos Albuquerque Cavalcanti, the purpose of this gold marketing effort is to attract new investors into the market, which can be likened to the stock market, bank deposit certificate market, and other markets.

Marcos Cavalcanti commented that in initiating its gold production operations Reserva is meeting the standards of the National Department of Mineral Production, and that it is currently prospecting in the 40,000-hectare tract on the Crepori River in Para.

"There's gold there, gold of good quality," he said. "We do not yet know how much, because the prospecting is still in progress. The initial plans call for a production of 20,000 cubic meters per month. We guarantee that no gold were be lost, as occurs in the goldfields. Productivity will be higher."

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CUT PREPARES GENERAL STRIKE TO FORCE DIRECT ELECTIONS

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 17 Feb 84 p 5

[Article by special correspondent Gilberto Dimenstein]

[Text] Sao Paulo--Representing approximately 1.2 million workers and more than 1,000 labor unions, the CUT [Sole Central Organization of Workers] is already organizing a powerful blow to force approval of the amendment that restores the direct election of the president of the republic: a general strike. In an exclusive interview yesterday with CORREIO BRAZILIENSE the president of the Sole Central Organization of Workers, Jair Meneguelli, appeared optimistic. "The struggle for direct elections will unify the opposition forces," he said. "It could be the fuse to touch off a great national movement for the reconquest of national sovereignty. We shall show that direct elections mean--in practice--an improvement in the life of the workers."

There are other sources of pressure. The CUT is also already preparing a day of protest throughout the nation for the week preceding the vote on the Dante de Oliveira amendment. "There will be marches and parades in as many municipalities as possible," Meneguelli said. "We shall also draw up a document listing the names of those members of congress who have not taken a stand on the side of the people. This document will be distributed widely, especially during the electoral period," he said.

There is one source of concern, however: the need for winning the support of CONCLAT [National Conference of the Working Classes]. This organization is strongly influenced by the PCB [Brazilian Communist Party], whereas the CUT is under the virtual control of the Workers Party. The PCB, moreover, does not exactly appear to be enthusiastic about direct elections. "I believe, however," Meneguelli said, "that the issue of direct elections will unite all the labor union movements." In any event, the CUT has a strong capacity for mobilization in the ABC [Industrial sections of Santo Andre, Sao Bernardo do Campo and Sao Caetano do Sul]--the principal industrial zone in the Sao Paulo region.

"Conditions are ripe for a strike to break out," Meneguelli said. "The ranks of the unemployed are growing at a frightening pace. There is runaway inflation. Cases of corruption appear to go unpunished. All this merely intensifies the discontent."

Meneguelli fully supports the march on Brasilia. "In fact," he said, "I believe we'll succeed in taking close to 200,000 persons to the Federal Capital to demonstrate how far the people's forces are advancing." He spoke of the possibility that emergency measures will be decreed. "I do not fear emergency measures," he declared. "Since 1964 I've felt I was in a 'state of emergency.' The workers, incidentally, are already living under those conditions, with their right to demonstrate restricted. If we allowed ourselves to fear this type of reprisal, we wouldn't accomplish anything further.

"At the present moment," he continued, "we must use every means at our disposal to bring pressure to bear, and strikes are the best weapon the workers have to struggle for their own interests." Meneguelli believes that many in the military have "dark motives" for being concerned about public demonstrations in favor of direct elections. "The fact is that many people fear an official investigation. I believe that many in the military have become involved in administrative irregularities and fear they will be found out. They consequently do not want an elected government, which would have a great deal more power to defeat corruption in the nation," he said.

He does make one proviso. "I want to say, though, that I am not out for 'revenge.' If a worker is caught in the act of stealing a radio from an automobile made in his factory, he will be fired for just cause. Could we call the decision taken by the factory an act of 'revenge'? Of course not," he said.

"I believe that the military must be at the side of the people," he declared, "instead of fighting against them. They must be concerned about our sovereignty. They should be indignant not over the struggle for restoration of direct elections but over the foreign interference in connection with the IMF."

Concerning the announced willingness of the Brazilian Communist Party to reach an agreement with the PDS /Social Democratic Party/ he had this to say: "This sort of attitude is shameful. It is a betrayal of the working class. The workers will never derive any advantage from this kind of agreement."

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CSO: 3342/76

ABC-SISTEMAS TO MANUFACTURE OTOMAT MISSILE

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 Feb 84 p 12

[Text] When the search radar on the ship detects the enemy, the ship does not have to change course in order to defend itself, regardless of the condition of the sea. The data from the ship's sensors or radar are processed by the computer of the launch system that defines the target and retransmits the information to another computer, that of the missile: the commander alone now determines the fire. This is the way the Otomat missile works. It will be manufactured by ABC-Sistemas--a company that recently entered the field of arms production.

The Otomat technology is Italian in origin. The long-range system of the missile enables it to be launched by means of a series of data from other ships, aircraft or helicopters, all for the purpose of launching the missile and guiding it in flight. The Otomat is a surface-to-surface naval missile suitable for installation on ships of any tonnage, including patrol boats. There is also an air version--the Gryphon--and a version for helicopters and light aircraft: the Marte.

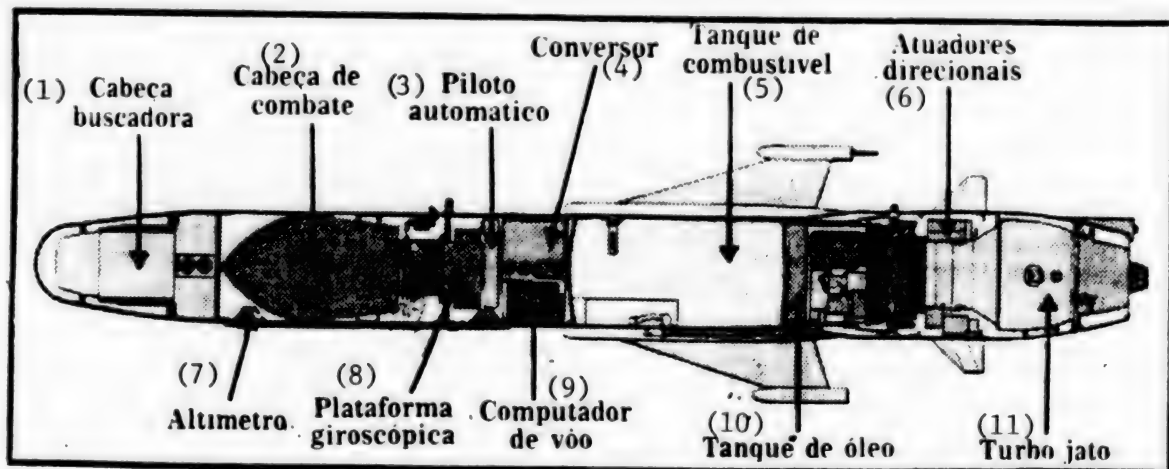
According to Claudio Leig, managing director of ABC-Sistemas, the group decided after much research to enter the military field by producing missiles, but will soon embark on the production of torpedoes and equipment for military aircraft.

Leig says that the technical experts of the group will tour many countries to determine which technology is best suited to the manufacture of missiles. The company plans to supply them for Brazilian corvettes. He announced that the ABC proposal is already being studied by the Navy, and that plans even provide for a binational program for development of a long-range supersonic missile.

He explains that they considered developing the missile with their own technology, but concluded that they would need several years to do so and in the end would delay the company's arms production schedules. He said that the decision in favor of the Italian technology was due to the results obtained by the Oto Melara company (which created the missile). The company invested \$80 million in the project over a period of 13 years, whereas other foreign companies (for example, Aerospaziale) spent \$100 million and required 17 years of work to create their own. The decision in favor of the Otomat technology became even firmer when the ABC group learned that the British Navy--

after eliminating bidders from several countries--opted for the Italian missile or the American Harpoon missile for installation on its frigates.

Leig confirmed that during the phase of negotiations for the purchase of the technology ABC was visited by two technical experts from Aerospatiale, but the discussions were broken off when the Brazilian group learned that the guarantees for the transfer of "know-how" were insufficient, even at the level of ordinary maintenance.



Key:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Seeking head | 5. Fuel tank | 9. Flight computer |
| 2. Warhead | 6. Directional actuators | 10. Oil tank |
| 3. Automatic pilot | 7. Altimeter | 11. Turbojet |
| 4. Converter | 8. Gyroscopic platform | |

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CSO: 3342/76

BRIEFS

SCIENTISTS TO USSR--Brasilia--Twelve Brazilian scientists specializing in areas such as optical semiconductors, earthquake forecasting, and agricultural production techniques in the Cerrado will become familiar this year with research centers in the Soviet Union, it was announced yesterday by Alexander Bliznakov, head of a Soviet scientific mission. The mission has completed a 10-day visit to Brazil during which they visited Rio, Sao Paulo and Brasilia. Bliznakov is a telecommunications engineer and assistant director of the foreign cooperation section of the State Committee for Science and Technology. He handed out invitations to visit his country at virtually every stage of his schedule--in Campinas, in Rio de Janeiro, at the Research Center of Cerrado da Embrapa and at the University of Brasilia. These contacts are part of a Brazilian-Soviet cooperation plan that is scheduled to last 2 years and that has already taken six scientists and two administrative officials to Moscow last year. Text Rio de Janeiro
JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 Feb 84 p 157 10992

CSO: 3342/76

IRAQ-IRAN WAR SAID TO BENEFIT U.S. INTERESTS

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Jan 84 pp 18-19

[Article by Amalia Reveron: "Whom Does the War Benefit?"]

[Text] The prolonged and costly war between Iran and Iraq benefits primarily the United States, which by citing the "Soviet threat" and the defense of "vital interests" is using the conflict to justify its presence in the strategic Persian Gulf.

While Washington views the confrontation in accordance with its interests in the Persian Gulf and as the White House encourages and promotes it, progressive organizations, parties and figures have voiced their deep concern over a situation that is a direct consequence of the United States' militaristic policy.

During the monarchy of Mohammed Reza Pahlevi, Iran was a U.S. stronghold in the region because of its weapons purchases, which were in the billions of dollars, the 50,000 American military advisers stationed there and the sizable investments of transnational corporations, especially in oil development.

It all ended in 1979, when the Iranian masses besieged Tehran's barracks and palaces and a process of socioeconomic transformations began for the millions of peasant farmers who had been stripped of their lands and their most basic rights, just like the rest of the population (38,082,000, according to UN fund figures in 1980).

The American military advisers were expelled, and the Pentagon's spy centers, whose influence extended throughout the region, were dismantled. The banks, insurance companies and several heavy industries were nationalized, and agrarian reform laws were passed, among other popular measures.

These and other decisions in 1979 and 1980 confirmed the working class nature and the anti-imperialist orientation of the Iranian revolution, although it did not go beyond the bourgeois democratic framework.

Iran, an Islamic country, is very important in U.S. political and military strategy, which aims at regaining ground in the area and at turning Iran into a potential theater of operations to control the huge oil deposits in the gulf.

The United States and other Western countries are also interested in undermining Iran's and Iraq's capacity to resist their pressures, in destroying Iran's antimonarchical and anti-imperialist revolution, in thwarting its nationalist development and in involving Tehran in the undeclared war against Afghanistan.

The process of change that Iraq began on 17 July 1968 has made gains, in spite of the regional conflicts, in which the United States and Israel have played a fundamental role because of Washington's desire to secure bases and facilities in the gulf for its military.

Bagdad broke diplomatic relations with the United States in 1967, accusing it of helping Israel in the war against the Arab countries. Iraq is also engaged in a nuclear program for peaceful purposes and is satisfied with what it has accomplished; Tel Aviv is opposed to the program, however, and has attacked the Tammuz power plant.

Reagan and the War

The Reagan administration talks about neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war. Nevertheless, it does not bother to hide its goal of seeking a pretext for military intervention or of insuring that it can intervene whenever it deems necessary, as was the case recently in Grenada.

The "Rapid Deployment Forces" began conducting various maneuvers in the deserts of Nevada and California in January 1981 as part of the preparations for intervention. In addition, Washington increased the number of aircraft carriers in the Indian Ocean and undertook an emergency expansion of the base on Diego Garcia.

Twenty-four hours after the war began, then President James Carter made the demagogic promise that his country would remain "strictly neutral," but his actions and those of his successor Ronald Reagan reflect a strongarm policy conducted through multiple, complex direct and indirect ties to destabilize the Bagdad and Tehran governments.

Pursuing its interventionist policy, the White House sent four AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia. They spend the entire day patrolling the northern Saudi coast from the border between Iran and Iraq in the west to the Straits of Hormuz in the east.

The official U.S. version is that they are on a "strictly defensive mission," although the aircraft can monitor the situation in areas adjacent to the Saudi kingdom or military exercises off the coast of Oman, where the Rapid Deployment Forces conducted a trial landing in December 1982. Furthermore, the espionage extends to the borders of the Soviet Union.

A Dignified and Just Settlement

The war between Iran and Iraq continues in spite of the efforts to find a dignified and just settlement.

Both are members of the Nonaligned Movement and the Third World and both are Islamic countries. Moreover, they are located in one of the world's sore spots, a region that contains more than three-fifths of the planet's oil reserves.

The nonaligned countries have put forth great efforts to end the war. Cuba, which held the chairmanship of the movement, began a mediation effort to restore peace and settle differences through diplomatic channels.

India, the current chairman, intends to make another effort to arrange a meeting between the highest-level authorities of Iraq and Iran. The details of New Delhi's plan are not yet known, though.

In addition to the mediation efforts of the Nonaligned Movement, the United Nations, the Islamic Conference and the Arab League, the Soviet Government, among others, has urged the two countries to begin negotiations immediately to end the war, because neither side will gain anything by mutual destruction, bloodshed and the ravaging of their economies, especially in a trouble spot like the Near and Middle East.

Their religious differences, which Great Britain fostered for purposes of colonial penetration during the Ottoman period, are compounded by economic and social differences, as well as the proximity of large deposits of Iranian oil in the areas bordering the Shatt-al-Arab inlet, one of the conflict zones.

Despite the signing of the Algiers Agreements in 1975 to resolve the problem, the differences remained and the incidents mounted. Finally, on 17 September 1980, Saddam Hasayn, the Iraqi president, revoked the agreements.

The fighting broke out at dawn on 22 September 1980.

The fighting on land, sea and air has extended to the petrochemical complexes and capital cities of the two countries (Tehran and Bagdad), and some sources indicate that the overall toll is 300,000 dead, 370,000 wounded and 60,000 prisoners, while property losses are in the billions of dollars.

As usual, the United States and its Western and Arab allies are trying to reap benefits from the differences or conflicts between forces that are not on their side, thus paving the way for the fulfillment of their geopolitical ambitions.

PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT FOR EXPANDED CAMPECHE BUDGET CITED

Big Increase Over 1983 Figure

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 4 Jan 84 p 17-A

[Text] Campeche, 3 Jan--Governor Eugenio Echeverria Castellot said that the state budget for expenditures for 1984 is approximately 10.25 billion pesos. This represents a 74 percent increase over 1983, when 6.215 billion pesos were spent, and almost a 3,000 percent increase over 1979, when the current administration took office.

When reporting on the budget for expenditures the head of the state government underscored the support of President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado for the state of Campeche, which has made it possible for the state to continue growing even during a period of crisis.

He stressed that, owing to its amount, structure and program, the budget will help consolidate the process of development that has been under way in the state in recent years. At the same time it will maintain the priorities established in the state development plan and the southeast plan.

Furthermore it is helping to fight inflation as much as possible, maintaining productive capacity and creating more jobs. Within the framework of the state priorities the budget is oriented fundamentally to the productive sector and restrictions on current account expenditures by the state government are being kept in effect.

The governor stated that indebtedness is not being resorted to, but that the budget is established on the basis of an equitable fiscal policy that does not envisage a tax increase, although there will be a considerable increase in contributions by the federal government.

He emphasized that the budget is an instrument with great potential for promoting development and that a strong impetus for the state is expected in 1984. On the other hand the budget control law in effect guarantees effective, honest spending and imposes various strict controls in order to avoid any deviations.

Benefits to Eight Municipalities Detailed

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 5 Jan 84 pp 15-A, 26-A

[Excerpt] In 1984 the eight municipalities of the state of Campeche will receive government contributions of 2 billion pesos, which represents an increase of more than 100 percent over 1983. It is an increase of 34,500 percent compared with what they received at the beginning of the current administration.

This announcement was made by the state governor, Eugenio Echeverria Castellot, who said that this step was of the utmost importance for strengthening the municipalities economically, in accordance with the policy of President de la Madrid and the current state government's programs to strengthen the municipalities.

Echeverria Castellot recalled that when he took office in 1979, the municipalities as a whole were receiving 6 million pesos, which was not enough to pay even the modest salaries of the municipal officials and even less so to provide the public services needed in the community. By the end of this fiscal year they will have received a little more than 1 billion pesos. The state budget for expenditures for 1984, which will be published tomorrow, will provide the unprecedented amount of 2.07 billion pesos.

With the state contribution of millions, plus federal resources and their own revenues, the municipalities will be able to respond to the claims made in the popular referendum held last month to establish the programs of work of the municipal governments.

As has already been reported, Governor Echeverria Castellot also agreed to transfer the transit police and public security forces to the authority of the municipalities, thus complying fully with the new version of Article 115 of the Constitution. The article was revised and newly included through the initiative of President de la Madrid and the Integral Law of state municipalities.

Professor Ismael Estrada Cuevas, the head of the municipality of Calkini, presented his first governmental report today. He said, when he first heard the amount of the state government's contributions, that the strengthening of the municipalities of Campeche has been a creative reality since the beginning of the administration of Echeverria Castellot and that it was not limited to the good intentions of the law.

He said that if Echeverria Castellot passed into history as the man who achieved the most important bridge engineering project in the country, the monumental Bridge of Unity, he would also be remembered as the architect behind the strengthening of the municipalities as a result of his unprecedented support for them, the effects of which can already be seen in every village in the state.

In regard to the transfer of the police forces, the mayor of Calkini said this was a healthy measure and that the municipal governments now have sufficient maturity and administrative experience to provide this public service directly to the community.

The state contributions to the municipalities will also reach and benefit the municipal councils and police headquarters.

12351

CS0: 3248/395

METROPOLITAN AREA COST OF LIVING RAW DATA

Potable Water

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 6 Dec 83 'Metropoli' supplement p 9

[Text] Naucalpan--The Popular Settlements Federation has received numerous complaints against the water "kegs" sent by the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] Municipal Committee.

The manager of this organization, Pedro Pineda Gonzalez, asserts that the employees who carry the potable water assigned to be distributed free of charge, sell the 200-liter drums for 20 or 30 pesos each, when the vital liquid is in great demand, as was the case the day before yesterday and 2 days ago, when a pump broke and half the town was without water.

He added that those settlers who can do so pay up to 50 pesos per 200-liter drum to private water-carriers [piperos] coming from Atizapan, but that most people draw their supply from the "official kegs" [pipas]--some belong to the PRI and others to the Town Council--due to lack of money, and that these charges have been protested, since the "cask" employees sometimes prefer to sell the whole tank car to individuals who have big cement tanks, cisterns or water-tanks, etc., or else to commercial establishments, factories.

Beans, Cooking Oil

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 8 Dec 83 'Metropoli' supplement p 9

[Text] Unbelievable! In towns in the Valley of Mexico beans are being sold at 200 pesos per kilo!

This constitutes a real hold-up and it is reasonable for the authorities of the Secretariat of Trade and Industrial Development in the area to impose the necessary punishment on those who starve the people.

This assertion was made by Guadalupe Picazo, chairman of the House of the Cenopista Woman, who added that cooking oil, milk, meats--pork, beef, chicken and fish--pasta dishes, bread and soluble coffees, are subject to speculation and price rises.

We have been told, Chairman Picazo asserted, that there is no shortage of beans and that there are enough. Nevertheless, in the stores and markets of the perimeter of the Federal District, beans are being sold at 200 pesos per kilo.

In the same towns in the Valley of Mexico, as in others, there is a shortage of cooking oil, salt, sugar, eggs and milk. The sale of these products, she added, is conditional to housewives and consumers in general, since for instance bakeries refuse to sell milk products unless customers have first purchased bread, especially sugared bread.

This has made for a drain on resources and an imbalance in the family economy of thousands and thousands of housewives, she indicated.

The price of cooking oil has gone up, and is now being sold at from 130 to 150 pesos per liter, an amount which for many homes is somewhat prohibitive.

Both milk and eggs are often sold for far more than their official prices, a situation which deserves energetic action on the part of the SECOFIN [Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat] authorities, the woman leader asserted.

Bread, 3-5 Pesos

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 19 Dec 83 'Metropoli' supplement p 9

[Text] In most bakeries in the Valley of Mexico, a piece of white bread--bread roll or large loaf of brown bread--is sold for 3 and even 5 pesos.

This was reported by leaders Ernesto Roa Cortes, of the CROC [Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants]; Leonel Dominguez Rivero, of CTC; Raul Primitivo Tobon Camacho, of CROM; and Jesus Alvarado Bonilla, of COR [Revolutionary Labor Confederation].

The representatives of the aforesaid union organizations specified that the bakery owners notwithstanding "standardizing" the price of white bread in the retail shops and bakeries on the perimeter of the Federal District, have decreased production so that the public will buy sugared bread, which is more profitable.

Finally, they said that the bakery owners in the NZT area (Naucalpan--Zaragoza--Tlalnepantla), trust in the SECOFIN Price Control; unless care is exercised, bread prices will increase at their discretion.

Holiday Season Food Items

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 19 Dec 83 'Metropoli' supplement p 2

[Article by Cristina Martin]

[Text] Christmas bonuses received by workers recently will not stretch far enough to satisfy their needs at this time of expenditures; besides, the traditional Christmas and New Year suppers will not be those usual in past years, owing to the decreased purchasing power of most families.

The foregoing may be inferred from a survey carried out by 'Metropoli' with a few housewives, as well as by a trip to the markets, which substantiated that the price of the traditional foods far exceeds workers' incomes.

Mrs Guadalupe Zarate said "the Christmas bonus lasted only 3 days, because I had to buy clothes for my children, who needed sweaters and other trifles. Since the children are growing, they outgrow their clothes quickly and now they have none left."

She explained that during the year debts pile up that must be paid at this time and usually this is how the Christmas bonus is spent.

As for Christmas dinner, she said that in her family, each person will bring a small dish to economize and that it was her turn to contribute with stuffed chickens, because turkey is very expensive.

Actually, the dishes that traditionally are eaten at Christmas dinners are very expensive: codfish, "you can call codfish" as one woman commented, costs between 1,000 and 3,000 pesos per kilo, depending on the place where it is bought.

Turkeys have proved to be a "regular gold mine" for the poultry associations, since they monopolized production to sell them "smoked" or "prepared" which is why the price rises up to 699 pesos a kilo. It should be noted that the turkeys almost never weigh less than 3 or 4 kilos.

Finally, it still might be possible to choose chicken, but chicken is sold at 190 pesos per kilo for the whole bird and at 360 pesos when stuffed, an amount that is not enough for a family.

12448

CSO: 3348/411

PARTIES ON LEFT TO COLLABORATE ON RENTERS' LAW

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 13 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] This year, the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico, the Socialist Workers Party and the Popular Socialist Party will develop joint workshops in order to expedite the approval of a renters' law. The purpose of the unified effort of the three leftist parties is to attempt to organize the discontent caused among the population of the Federal District by the PRI's moratorium on carrying out advanced legislative projects on the subject of housing leasings.

Ivan Garcia Solis, general secretary of the capital district of the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico], stated that the appropriate conditions for the creation of a broad movement against the landlords are a reality. He mentioned that at the present time there are only a few officers or legislators who dare to openly state their opposition to the approval of a renters' law, even when the landlords' interests secretly pressure the government and the PRI to hinder any advance in that direction.

The PSUM leader of the capital city considered that the PRI was greatly "eroded" last year, as a result of the fact that although there was ample opportunity to legislate on renters' matters, there were no specific results in this area. Under the assumption that those who are affected by the PRI's delays are not fully informed on how this matter has been dealt with, the PSUM shall carry out special campaigns to make known, as widely as possible, both the reasons why the PRI majority has prevented the advancement of the renters's interests, and the forms of organized struggle that might be used to push this project.

Garcia Solis indicated that the PRI approached the subject of the renters' law under an electoral constituency conception. He emphasized the "absurdity" of pretending that the CNOP, the PRI's middle class head office, have a Federation of Tenants' Associations, even when the respective legislative work has not been duly developed.

He commented that joint actions such as the ones that will be developed together with the PST [Socialist Workers Party] and the PPS [Popular Socialist Party] could extend to other tenants' organized sectors to "push" the activities of the legislative committee specially nominated to study the renters' problem.

For his part, Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, spokesman of the PPS, said that his party has traditionally sought a legal ordinance that would benefit the majorities and not the landlords. "We have carried that banner and we will carry it before the Permanent Congressional Committee, before the special legislative committee, before the special legislative committee, before the president of the republic, and before the entire world," he emphasized.

Then he commented that the united tasks between the PPS and the PSUM fit their disposition to struggle for common goals above specific differences, and that that inclination towards unity shows that the PPS wishes to step forward in the solution of the main problems of the country from a revolutionary perspective.

From the Socialist Workers Party, Alberto Perez Martinez, assistant secretary of agitation and propaganda, and member of the Central Committee of that party, stated that apparently the original project of the renters' law met "too much political resistance" and that, in the end, was watered down and moderated in favor of the landlords.

Perez Martinez felt that the PRI resulted eroded by this action. Moreover, he mentioned that the possibilities of rapprochement with other parties on the Left, and a disposition for working together, open an interesting panorama in the struggle to push a renters' law in agreement with the popular majority interests.

12493

CSO: 3247/427

JUCHITAN: COCEI TAX RESISTANCE

Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 5 Jan 84 pp 1, 4

/Text/ If the militants of the Labor, Student, Peasant Coalition of the Isthmus (COCEI) usurp functions when evading the payment of taxes, they will be sanctioned in accordance with the penal legislation in force, said yesterday Carlos Aldeco Reyes, "A" assistant secretary of the state government.

The officer specified that the legally constituted authority in Juchitan is headed by Javier Fuentes Valdivieso, member of the city council, and he added that Daniel Lopez Nelio, who recently set up his own city council in Juchitan, takes advantage of the ignorance of his followers to have them violate the law.

"The tax collection authority is in the hands of Fuentes Valdivieso and in the event that the followers of Lopez Nelio fail to fulfill their fiscal obligations, the authority has the power to apply coercive economic proceedings and force the taxpayer to answer with his assets," he specified.

The state leader of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM), Eloy Vazquez Lopez, had stated the day before that the members of COCEI had agreed to launch a tax strike during the 3 years of the government of the PRI mayor, Javier Fuentes Valdivieso.

12493

CSO: 3248/427

BRIEFS

SEVEN CAPITAL POLICE OFFICIALS DEMOTED--Seven high officers of the General Office of Police and Transit--four area chiefs and five group commanders [as published]--were demoted "for not adjusting to the working policies required within the corps," as informed yesterday by Gen Ramon Mota Sanchez. Those who until yesterday were assistant inspectors--in the previous administration they were called colonels--Alejandro Duran Morales, Armando Duarte Badillo, Andres Zuniga Hernandez and Carlos Sanchez Lucero, became members of the troop. In addition, assistant inspectors Efrain Mendoza Nares, Crescencio Aguayo Garcia and Benjamin del Valle Barajas, as well as first officer Juan Garibay Mendez, group chiefs, were also stripped of those responsibilities and will perform other tasks of lesser rank. In the first case, the assistant inspectors held the sector head offices--area chiefs--in the police stations of Venustiano Carranza, Benito Juarez, Coyoacan and Miguel Hidalgo, respectively, whereas the group chiefs commanded units 18, 19 and 20; units 30 and 31; units 32 and 33, and 7 and 8, respectively. In order to hold the offices left by the above-mentioned area chiefs, Gen Mota Sanchez nominated Jose Luis Gutierrez Aranda to the Venustiano Carranza police station; Jose Gallardo Morales to the Benito Suarez station; Ramon de la Llata de la Garza to the Coyoacan and Rene Monterrubio Lopez to the Miguel Hidalgo station. The other offices left vacant by the above-mentioned shall be held by assistant inspectors Benjamin Vallas Barajas, in Milpa Alta; Marcos Castillejas Lopez, in Tlalpan; Alfonso Portela Juarez, in Magdalena Contreras and Faustino Delgado Valle, in Tlahuac. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 Jan 84 p 14-A] 12493

CHIPAS GOVERNOR OPPOSES SOCONUSCO SECESSION--Chiapas will never be divided, because one needs only to look at its history, to study it, to realize that our unity has taken us, the people of Chiapas, effort and dedication, "those who pretend to create the State of the Soconusco are nothing but disoriented people eager for publicity and notoriety." Those were the words of Governor Absalon Castellanos Dominguez, addressing the 19 presidents of the Costa and Soconusco municipalities that yesterday gave a dinner in this town to express their solidarity and support to the programs that have been are are being carried out by his administration for the benefit of the entity. Later Castellanos Dominguez stated that we people of Chiapas are united around our fatherland led by President Miguel de la Madrid, "he has supported us today with works throughout the 19 municipalities through the Chiapas Plan, which is the product of the efforts of all the inhabitants of our state."

Afterwards he called for us to redouble our efforts, after 1 year of work, to fully benefit from federal support. In the unity meeting offered by the mayors of Costa and Soconusco, Mr. Cipriano Becerra Cruz, municipal president of this place, offered accommodations to the governor in the name of his colleagues here gathered, and then stated "before the retrogrades, the demagogues, the short-sighted, the traitors to the country, the Chiapas Plan, bravely led by President de la Madrid and by Governor Castellanos Dominguez, answers them with tangible and indestructible facts." Then he emphasized "you are not alone Mr Governor, your people love you, back you and supports you firmly and loyally." [Text] [Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 29 Jan 84 p 17] 12493

MEXICO STATE: MIGRATION, EMPLOYMENT DATA--Each month an average of 30,000 men looking for work and better educational opportunities come to the state of Mexico from the interior of the country. This was reported by the leader of CROC [Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants] and local deputy, Ernesto Roa Cortes. He added that the largest number of applications for work are from the towns of Naucalpan, Tlalnepantla, Ecatepec, Atizapan, Tultitlan, Cuautitlan and various other towns in the outskirts of the Federal District. He said that unemployment "is the specter of our times" in the Valley of Mexico since it has increased 20 percent. In other words, of the 1 million workers in the surrounding area, about 200,000 are unemployed. Also, the problem is getting worse because several factories are closing, mainly in the electronics and textile industries. At present many businesses are operating only 2 days a week, but paying the workers for 4 days, said the state leader of CROC and local deputy for the 48th local legislature. [Text] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 13 Dec 83 'Metropoli' supplement p 9] 12351

CSO: 3248/395

TAX REVENUES FOR 1983

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Jan 84 p 8

[Text] Silvio Vargas, director general of revenues, told BARRICADA yesterday that tax collections for 1983 were 1.73 billion cordobas above previous estimates.

He provided a breakdown of the figures as follows: 6.649 billion cordobas were collected as against 5.576 billion projected for last year, an increase of 20 percent.

Vargas said that 2.146 billion cordobas were collected last year over the amount collected in 1982, and he announced that the estimate for this year was 8.6 billion cordobas.

First place in 1983 was occupied by collections from the Selective Consumer Tax (3.109 billion cordobas); second was the income tax with 1.498 billion; and sales and service was in third place with 1.176 billion.

He stated that as regards the income tax 35 million cordobas were not collected primarily because the minimum income for declaring was raised from 48,000 to 60,000 cordobas.

The selective consumer tax revenues are based mainly on sales of rum, cigarettes, soft drinks, and fuel. Vargas explained that 63 percent of the cost of rum goes to the treasury, and in the case of cigarettes it is 56 percent.

However, he said the subsidy on products of prime necessity (rice, beans, sugar, etc.) and transportation will be continued although he did not specify the exact figures for 1984.

He said that at least 200 million cordobas would be provided to subsidize the sugar mills so that they can maintain the same price to the consumer as before and about 500 million will be provided to subsidize basic grains throughout the year, he remarked.

Another aspect he brought out was that starting in November 1983, the treasury began to collect 10 million cordobas each month, starting that

month, for the fuel the government consumes. It was previously exempt from paying taxes.

The highest collection months during 1983 were September (948 million cordobas), March (690 million), December (669 million), and November (602 million).

Vargas said that approximately 40 percent of the firms throughout the country were evading taxes at present, but this was expected to be overcome by means of raffles organized by the Ministry of Finance among consumers, who participate through the invoices they receive.

In 1984, according to estimates, 340 million cordobas more will be collected through the income tax than in 1983, 360 million more will be collected through the tax on goods and services, and 2 billion more will be collected through the selective consumer tax.

9015

CSO: 3248/436

ZELAYA SUR FISHING INDUSTRY REVIEWED

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Jan 84 p 6

[Text] Bluefields--In a review of fishing activities during 1983 presented 5 January 1984, Luis Adrian Pichardo, representative of INPESCA [Nicaraguan Institute of Fisheries], revealed that \$6.7 million had been appropriated for materials and parts this year for small firms operating in this area.

Speaking of the problems being encountered, he pointed out that 9 boats had been stolen from INPESCA last year, the majority of which were seen headed in the direction of Honduras; another burned in the port of El Bluff, causing losses of over 30 million cordobas. To these were added the constant shortages of fuel, materials, parts, lack of worker discipline, and the state of emergency that existed between June and December, cutting down the number of fishing days.

Notwithstanding all this, 72 percent of the production goals set were met, and 2,773,900 pounds of fish products were exported, which provided \$15.5 million in revenues to the country. This year INPESCA projects exports of 3,628,600 pounds of fish products, including lobster, shrimp, and fish.

The fleet employed for fishing consists of 72 boats. These belong to COPESNICA in Bluefields, PESCARA in the port of El Bluff, and PROMAR in Corn Island.

The fishing companies have been strengthened with the arrival of trained technicians sent here from INPESCA Central in Managua.

The trade union organizations have been consolidated. Regarding civil defense, there has been a strong response among the workers to requests for participation in the reserve battalions, the territorial militia, the Revolutionary Vigilance, and the defense brigades.

Comrade Pichardo pointed out that INPESCA goals for 1984 will be met only with the support and the determined efforts of the working class of the fishing industry of Zelaya Sur.

9015

CSO: 3248/436

EDUCATION BUDGET ANALYZED

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Jan 84 p 5

[Excerpt] The budget assigned by the revolutionary government for education this year amounts to 1.4845 billion cordobas and is "an unprecedented budget," Minister Carlos Tunnermann said yesterday.

To illustrate how the educational budget had increased, he said that the last budget under the Somoza regime (1979) was 358 million cordobas, and after the revolutionary victory it had to be increased during the latter half of that year.

He said that in 1983 it was 1.108 billion cordobas; thus this year 376 million cordobas are being added. Operating costs will consume 1.41 billion and investments 74.5 million. These figures represent only the amounts provided by the government, and other amounts from various organizations are added thereto.

Tunnermann said that 27.4 million will be earmarked for preschool education, and the goal is to increase matriculation by 37.9 percent (from 48,452 students in 1983 to 66,850 in 1984).

The allocation for primary education will be 621.6 million cordobas, and an effort will be made to increase this educational level by 11.2 percent, especially in rural areas. This involves the creation of 1,988 teaching jobs, in other words, new positions for teachers in these specific areas.

The allocation for secondary education is 222.7 million cordobas, and the goal is an increase of 12.3 percent.

Total normal school matriculation will be increased by 22 percent, and this year 2,209 new teachers will be graduated, which is 711 more than last year.

Educational Fields

Tunnermann stated that there were only 5 normal schools during the Somoza era in this country, and the goal now is 14, with the immediate goal being the Ocotal Normal School. The allocation this year for that level is 35.4 million cordobas.

The allocation for trade high schools, especially in the technical-industrial, agricultural and animal husbandry, and business fields will be 102.3 million cordobas and for adult education 167 million cordobas. He stressed that there will be 26 special schools this year for handicapped children, and the allocation will be 11.1 million.

9015

CSO: 3248/436

'MASSIVE CROWD' AT PAM MEETING CHAIRED BY SIMMONDS

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 4 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] A massive meeting of the People's Action Movement was held at George Street, New Town on Thursday night this week. One of the largest crowds ever to attend a political meeting in this country listened with rapt attention as speaker after speaker hammered home the vast difference between the PAM/NRP Coalition Government and the defeated Labour Party.

The Prime Minister the Honourable Dr. Kennedy Simmonds chaired this very important meeting and he pointed out the fact that we are standing on the threshold of PMA's Fifth (5th) year in office.

Prime Minister Simmonds showed how the Labour Misleaders have concentrated on harassing the Government and on destabilising the country to the detriment of their own image. Meanwhile, there has been a significant expansion of employment opportunities on the Industrial Estate. Fort Thomas Hotel is full for the first time ever. He produced figures to prove that a greater percentage of Frigate Bay land was sold to foreigners under Labour than under this Government. He disclosed that over this week-end a group of investors will finalise plans for a \$2 million joint venture Dairy Project with the Government, which will be sited at Bayfords.

The Honourable Richard Caines quoted from official statistics to show how greatly the level of personal savings has increased in this country (\$93 million to nearly \$200 million) since Labour was removed from office. He was followed by the dynamic Roy Jones, PAM's hot new election prospect, who electrified his listeners with his first-hand account of some eye-opening examples of the confusion that existed in the ranks of the Labour Government when he was working to pioneer the National Insurance Company from 1973-1976. His Excellency Dr. William Herbert made a special appearance on the platform and introduced the popular Mr. Roosevelt Caines, a thriving young businessman from St. Pauls, as the representative for PAM in that area. Dr. Herbert said that all of the signs were promising a mammoth Convention for the People's Action Movement on Sunday 26th February, 1984.

The rest of the night's proceedings belonged to the Honourable Michael Oliver Powell, the elected representative for the East Basseterre

Constituency where the meeting was being held. Mr. Powell said that he had heard that there was a certain individual going around New Town buying rum and giving it away to New Town people as though the individual thought that New Town people are for sale. He wondered why it is that Dr. Sebastian (the individual) could be throwing around so much money on rum in New Town when he will not pay the poor people between Challengers and Old Road whose cultivations are constantly trampled and eaten by Sebastian's cattle, causing the destruction of tens of thousands of dollars worth of food crops for their families. At the age of almost 70 years, Dr. Sebastian was buying rum to make his belated political debut. For 1 1/2 hours, Mr. Powell highlighted his own promises to the people of East Basseterre and the unfailing dedication with which he has fulfilled each and every one of his political commitments to his constituency.

This mammoth meeting received wholehearted support throughout the four (4) hours during which the people were addressed by their leaders.

CSO: 3298/571

LABOUR BLASTED FOR POLITICKING OVER SUGAR SITUATION

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 4 Feb 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] In our Editorial for January 21, we drew attention to the fact that last year Labour's delaying tactics led Government by itself to announce the start of the 1983 crop. We reminded our readers how Labour had permitted the sugar workers to find out that it is not Labour alone that can tell them when they can start earning a full week's wage. We showed how NACO was able, quite rightly, to chase the Labour Union off the estates last year when they purported to represent workers without having gotten the Union recognised through an agreement with NACO. We even wondered if Labour would fall into the same error this year.

But the Labour Union did make the mistake again this year. After listening to the Minister of Labour's final offer, the 13-man Labour Union delegation returned to Masses House only to be told by the political leadership which dominates the Union Executive that there could be no agreement.

It is known however, that the sugar workers who were included in the Union Negotiating team were not dissatisfied with the amount of money offered by Government; they were simply trying to get the allocation of the increase rearranged so as to reflect a higher general wage increase, even though this meant lower bonuses.

Indeed, the 100% turnout at the Sugar Factory in this the first week of the 1984 crop, and NACO's 94% attendance of canecutters, in the absence of an agreement with Labour, very strongly suggest to us at THE DEMOCRAT that there was no real ground for any serious grievance, anyway.

What we do find unsavoury, though, is the length to which THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN, mouthpiece of the Opposition, is prepared to go to try to undermine Government's decision to provide a \$3/4 million Goat Water as an incentive for the sugar workers this year.

We have said over and over that the Labour organisation was going to be upset and put out if the sugar workers got a Goat Water payment this year. Imagine they even state in their Wednesday SPOKESMAN Editorial that by

proposing to pay Goat Water this year, the Honourable Prime Minister "is using the money to try to manipulate the workers". But last year they urged the workers not to cut one stick of cane if the Government did not pay Goat Water. Who is trying to manipulate the workers?

That Editorial makes very heavy weather of the proposed Goat Water payment. The Opposition Labour Movement is hidebound by its incapacity to welcome any achievement by this Government, even if that achievement will benefit the sugar workers whom Labour falsely professes to love. They even blatantly lie about the Prime Minister's well-publicised New Year's Day announcement about the Goat Water payment. He clearly stated "Part of the aid programme from Taiwan is a loan of U.S. \$1 million. That loan is expected to materialise this month". Look at THE SPOKESMAN's version: "He gave not the slightest indication that he was waiting on the funds. He spoke boldly for all the world as if he had the money".

Labour has failed again, and they will continue to do so as long as their only claim to fame is "harassing the Government". Meanwhile, the 1984 Sugar Crop is off to a good start!!!

CSO: 3298/571

OPPOSITION HIT FOR CLAIMS ABOUT LAND SALES TO FOREIGNERS

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 4 Feb 84 pp 2, 11

[Text] A few years ago this Newspaper carried a regular feature headlined: "Bryant Is A Jackass". It was very popular with readers, but we felt that since Bradshaw's puppy was powerless outside the Labour Party, and since there were powers even within the Party and the Labour Union who were beginning to stand up to him and his mother after Bradshaw had been removed from the scene, we should not often waste powder on parrahawk.

But the jackass is acting up again. Besides abusing decent citizens in print and from the platform this bare-faced parasite, who bang clatter come here to enjoy the fruits of the leading and richest country of the Leeward and Windward Islands--until he and the Labour Party embarked on their policy of absolute and total destruction, has been going around this Nation referring to people as foreigners. Imagine that! Worse still, the man even want to beat Karl Sporticus, because he claims that when Sporticus use the term Garrot, Sporticus is attacking he Bryant, Anne and the Sebastians.
[as published]

That man Bryant is really brazen to be calling people foreigners, and talking about lands and other property being sold to foreigners. The man should leave that kind of talk about foreigners to us, Kittians and Nevisians if we want to. When the man talks he ain't even got an excuse like Lee Moore. Because the man don't drink hard. The man don't be drunk; the man ain't suffering from delirium tremens.

We wonder if his old problem is beginning to reach his brain. We hear that the man says he goin lock up Simmonds and he goin deal with Powell. What kind of delusion that man is suffering from? He tried in 1967; he tried in 1971; and he tried again in 1975 when soldiers and bulldozers were ordered to mow down Dr. Simmonds on his own land. If after all these years he has not succeeded in getting Dr. Simmonds and Powell to disappear as the armies in Argentina and Grenada did to their citizens, how is the scatter-brained Bug going to do it now?

We will like at this point to deal with his talk about selling off all the lands to foreigners. We realize that people who live here know that the parasitic Bug is talking rubbish. They can see and hear for themselves

what is happening. But is grudge Bug grudge. When he was in Government, his Government could neither get land sold nor see developments implemented at Frigate Bay.

The Prime Minister at a public meeting on Thursday night brilliantly and systematically outlined the facts relating to the sale of land and the developments at Frigate Bay. He pointed out that between 1970 and 1976 forty (40) lots were sold at Frigate Bay. Of that number fifteen (15) or 37% were sold to foreigners. There are people who through contacts or through third parties managed to get a piece then, but they swear in all sincerity that they were told Frigate Bay was not for locals.

In 1977 no lots were sold. In 1978 one (1) out of seven (7) or 14% went to foreigners. In 1979 under Bryant and Lee Moore eleven (11) out of twenty-four (24) lots or 46% of lands sold went to foreigners. By 1980 the number of lots sold increased to thirty-four (34) and only four (4) or 12% went to foreigners. In 1981 sales increased to fifty-one (51) and only seven (7) or 14% went to foreigners. Sales for 1982 increased to sixty-five (65) lots, with a mere eight (8) or 12% going to foreigners.

The introduction of a more realistic pricing system late in 1982 led to a fall in the number of sales to thirty-five (35) in 1983, but to an increase in revenue. Of the thirty-five (35) lots sold only three (3) or 9% went to foreigners. Finally, the Prime Minister revealed that for 1984 sales and paid options amounted to fourteen (14), with all the purchasers being nationals.

We at this Newspaper, and all the members of Government, have always welcomed and will continue to welcome foreign investors. But what the PAM/NRP Government has done is to give nationals a concession, just as non-nationals were given concessions by the Labour Party. The Labour Party gave non-nationals exemption from Alien Landholding Licence and the relevant fees and red tape to enable them to buy land at Frigate Bay. But it took this Government, the Government of the Honourable Dr. Kennedy Alphonse Simmonds, to provide our citizens and nationals with an equivalent benefit by granting them a discount on their purchases.

That is concern. That is relief. That is encouragement. That is incentive to nationals! So Fitzroy Bryant, the Garrot Jackass, had better catch at another straw.

CSO: 3298/571

LABOUR PARTY PLANS SPECIAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE

Castries THE VOICE in English 8 Feb 84 p 3

[Text]

THE St. Lucia Labour Party is continuing plans for its political comeback with a special conference of delegates later this month.

The February 26 meeting at the St. Lucia Workers' Union Hall, will be addressed by Party Leader Mr. Neville Cenac.

Last August, the SLP held a convention at Vieux Fort which resolved months of infighting between rival factions. A new executive emerged and since then, the party has been preparing the groundwork for its return to full participation in the country's political life.

According to Hilary Modeste, the SLP's public relations officer, the main purpose of the delegates conference is to give approval to a paper outlining the reorganisation of the party.

This paper, he said, which had already been approved by the Party's Central Executive, is

being presented by the Executive to the conference for discussion and debate with a view to its adoption as a policy document of the Party.

Mr Modest said that the address by Cenac, who is also Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly, will deal with some areas of the party's social and economic policy programme.

The theme for the conference is "We are ready for the fight." The party said the theme was an indication of the quality of work the party has been quietly involved in during the past year. It said that 1984 would reveal the full strength of the party.

TAIWAN COMPANY SLATES LOCAL COOPERATIVE OPERATION

Castries THE VOICE in English 8 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER John Compton's recent tour of the Far East at the head of a St. Lucia mission of Government and private sector officials is beginning to bear fruit.

Last Saturday Compton and the chairman of the Tatung Company of Taiwan signed a letter of intent which provides for the setting up of a company here to be owned in equal shares by Tatung and the Government of St. Lucia.

There was very little information on the details of the arrangement announced yesterday, except that the new Company will manufacture electronic goods and household appliances.

There was no indication of the number of people to be employed or the estimated cost of the project and when it would get underway.

But THE VOICE Understands that the tentative target is for the company to begin operations, presumably in the Vieux Fort area by October this year.

The proposed company will be called Tatung Caribbean Limited and will join Tatung in the United States and Britain as part of the group's

overseas operations.

The Tatung name is not at all unfamiliar to St. Lucia. For the past four years, television sets carrying the Tatung brand name have been assembled in St. Lucia by Techmatics Limited, under a collaboration agreement between the two companies.

According to a spokesman for the Tatung organisation, the proposed arrangement for the St. Lucia company will not only give St. Lucia a meaningful share of the investment (50 percent), but will also assist in the provision of the technical expertise that is necessary if the island is to enter into the industrial and technological age.

He said: "Tatung is well qualified to do this, since they have set up their own training institutes which are capable of providing personnel to fill every level in the field of production and research and development."

Tatung manufactures over 300 products including desktop computers, television sets, video recorders, heavy industrial equipment and power plants.

CSO: 3298/572

BRIEFS

TOURISM GAINS--Fresh indications that St. Lucia's important tourist sector is on the upswing again after being nearly crippled by the international recession, has come with the 1983 hotel occupancy figures just released by the Hotels Association here. According to the Association, the island's 1,500 rooms recorded an average 56.2 percent last year, eight percent higher than in 1982. The 1981 figure was 66.8 percent. But while occupancies have increased, the Association has reported that hotel revenues fell during the last year, although no figures were given. The Association said that the new air service to the island by Pan American, which started last July, had boosted tourist traffic from the lucrative United States market, while our additional flight from Britain by British Airways during several months last year had the same effect from that market. So far, the current winter season has been good for St. Lucia's tourism. The hotel occupancy rate last month was "in the high eighties," the association said, compared to 63.2 percent in January 1983. The rates for last November and December were 69 percent and 64.3 percent compared with 64.6 percent and 63.1 percent for the corresponding months of 1982. The increase in hotel occupancy figures, patterns a 9 percent increase in the number of visitors coming to the island last year which has been reported by the Tourist Board here. In 1983, arrivals from the United States recorded an increase in excess of 60 percent, the biggest hike from any of the island's main markets, the Board said. [Excerpts] [Castries THE VOICE in English 8 Feb 84 p 3]

CSO: 3298/572

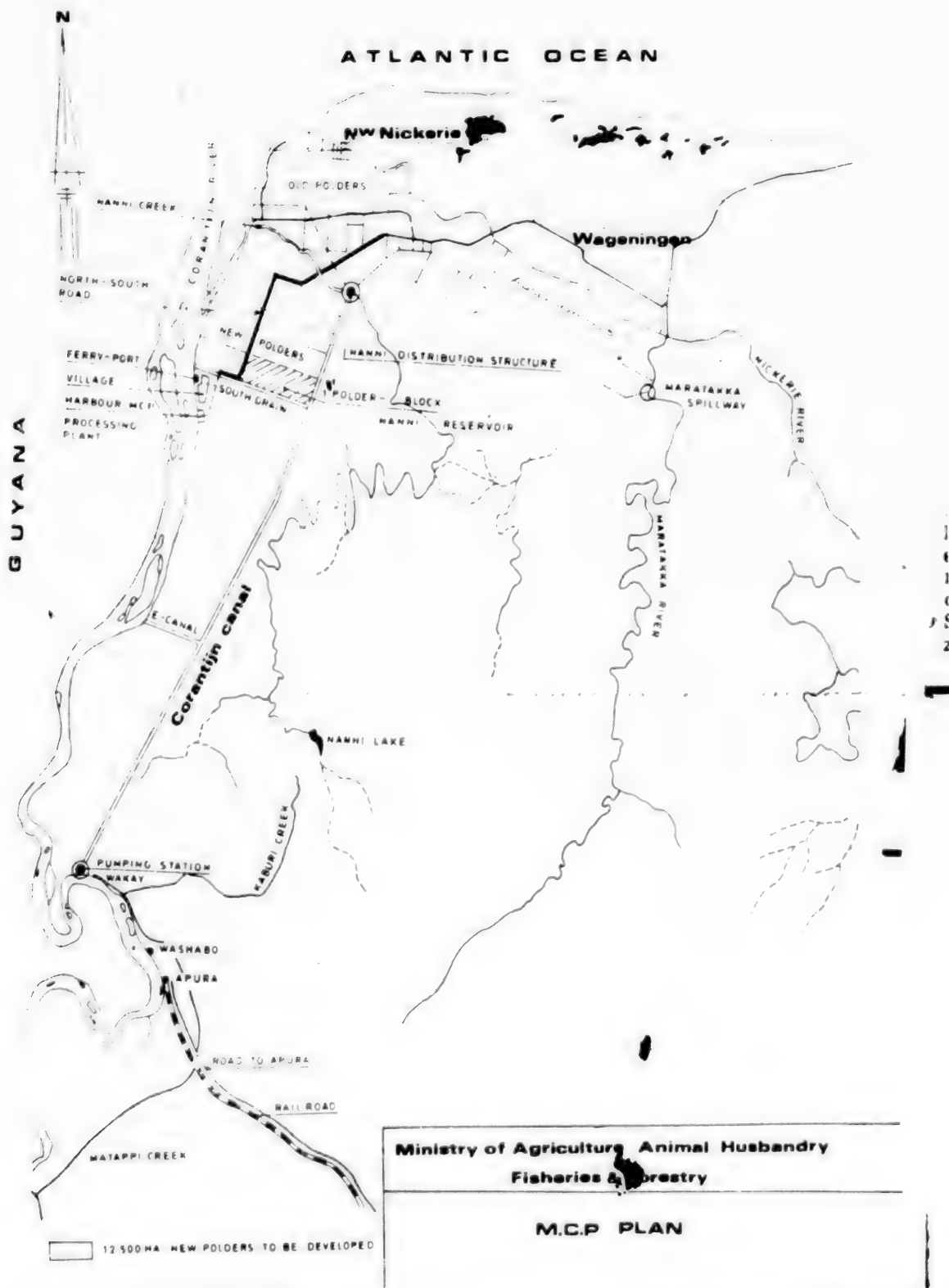
AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT CENTER TO OPEN IN NICKERIE

Parameribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 4 Feb 84 p 7

[Text] On Monday 6 February the Training Program for Agricultural Water Management will begin in the POR-center of Europolder North in the district of Nickerie. This course of 5 weeks is organized by the MCP [Multipurpose Corantijn Project] assisted by the OAS. Within the framework of our agrarian development, in particular of the Nickerie district, this is something unique. One of the reasons is that no less than 22 persons of at least Natin level belonging to various organizations, foundations, etc. will take part. Purpose. The course is intended to raise the level of leaders employed in areas connected with water management. A high level of water management covering irrigation, drainage, maintenance, etc. is an important factor in the development of agriculture. Just think of the important investments in irrigation systems; they will only have the best possible results under good management. According to the plan the MCP's pumping station and the main canal will be operational towards the end of the year. Within the framework of the LOC (Agriculture Development Committee) large scale developments are in progress where irrigation is concerned. Leaders. Coronie and Saramacca are also showing rapid developments in this area. In short, there are plenty developments in need of expert leaders, right now and also for the future. Just now these experts are not available and should be trained. This is the reason for the MCP initiative. We like to point out that it is particularly gratifying to see that the participants are from the major departments Region West-East-Center, Planning and Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Cattle Breeding, Fisheries, and Forestry, the Institute for Mechanized Agriculture, the Institute for Agricultural Development in Commewijne, the Hydrological and Meteorological Department of the Ministry of Public Works, Telecommunication, and Construction, and the Multi-purpose Corantijn Project itself. The course will therefore give functionaries of related areas a chance to meet each other, exchange ideas, and reach a higher technical level. OAS assistance which includes preparing the manual for the course, supplying the principal docent, and issuing certificates to the students, is only part of a much more encompassing program of assistance to the MCP. This assistance takes place within the framework of Water Management North-West Suriname and includes an advisory role in the development of the MCP management organization and rehabilitation of existing areas of production in Nickerie. In addition to theoretical studies concentrating on modern rice culture in particular,

as much attention as possible will be given to practical problems. In this connection the location of the training center is ideally chosen, namely in the middle of the polders of Nickerie. As much active participation as possible will be required from the participants; case studies will be one way to achieve this. The program will have a lot of field studies and field work, in addition there will also be excursions to the Institute for Mechanized Agriculture and the Corantijn Canal.

The opening ceremony will be performed on Monday 6 February between 12:00 and 2:00 pm; there will be speeches by or in the name of the MCP, the OAS, the district commissioner of Nickerie, the agricultural workers, and the ministry of Agriculture, Cattle Breeding, Fisheries, and Forestry. In conclusion it is appropriate to thank all the people who helped in the preparations, especially the many sponsors whose contributions minimized the organizational headaches. The leaders of the course are enthusiastic and they are doing whatever they can to see to it that the end will be a big success. We are calling on the Nickerie community to lend a hand wherever needed and possible and we are wishing the students of the course a lot of enthusiasm and diligence.



10319
CSO: 3214/24

BHAGWANDAS IDENTIFIES MORALE AS ARMY'S GREATEST WEAPON

Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 30 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] The battalion commander of the National Army [NL], First Lt Paul Bhagwandas, is very satisfied with the actions of the cadre and troops of the NL over the past 5 weeks. In a statement recently made to the army cadre, he said, "Through a very high degree of tolerance, patience, tactful action and a high awareness, the army was able to avoid the pitfalls laid before us. The discipline of the troops is very high. Through this, the numerous provocations were not able to achieve their intended goal."

"The counterrevolution wanted us to be made out as murderers who shot at defenseless workers. Even though one shot went off by mistake. We kept our cool and behaved properly with the brothers from Paranam. The propaganda that wanted to depict us as bloodthirsty bloodhounds has remained silent about this. We cannot be anything but patient towards workers. They are allies of the revolution and they cannot be forced at gunpoint to go to work. Only through tactful and intelligent actions will we be able to further the revolution together with them."

Basis for Victory

"If only one shot had gone off, it is not unthinkable that some large countries would want to find an argument for supposedly coming and 'rescuing' their citizens. We will not give them that opportunity, and if they do come they will be hard put with us," First Lt Paul Bhagwandas, battalion commander of the NL said.

In his statement, he added that one of the most powerful weapons has been used by the NL, specifically, morale.

Troops 100 Percent Loyal

"The men know what they are fighting for and what they have to do. Their morale is high, and that makes them equal to any situation. It is very pleasant and reassuring to know that you have soldiers at your disposal who face great difficulties in all respects, but who are 100 percent loyal and possess unbreakable morale. This is the basis for every victory. Let us close the ranks even more tightly and work towards even greater unity," the battalion commander said.

BOUTERSE DISCUSSES 344 MILLION-GUILDER BUDGET SHORTFALL

Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 31 Jan 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Suriname is presently fighting a budget deficit of 344 million guilders. How do we resolve this?

For a small community like the one in Suriname, this is a gigantic amount.

Especially if we consider that we are living in a style that is far too grand. For years, we have been spending more than we earn, we buy far too many luxury items, we import while our currency exchange position is very bad. We are dealing with a capitalist worldwide economic crisis. Our exports have fallen drastically, our production is at this moment lower than in the last quarter of 1983, as a result of the strikes.

The commander on this subject:

We are going to have to reduce the deficits. The first step is to eliminate 154 of the 344 million by applying measures restricting expenditures. Furthermore, this means that we will have to proclaim the means of the intensifying measures in order to get the 154 million above board.

After that, we will still have 190 million, which is much more bearable in this situation.

The banks are theoretically capable of gathering 150 million, through which only 40 million remains. However, this solution will not be opted for, because this would bring about negative consequences for the entire community. Bank loans would never again be available, and it would thus create problems for the economic activities of the people.

One of the proposals made by the revolutionary leadership to solve the problems is an increase in exports. Under the given circumstances, we must modify policy principles. We will observe for a year how it is going.

Concretely speaking, this is what is partly at stake. We had great difficulty with the export of rice, because it meant that the end products of rice had to be brought back in, such as baby food, rice meal, ground meal, etc. Thus, we have always led a policy of exporting end products so that

greater employment results, more income and more economic activity. We need foreign currency very much and will have to revoke the decreed ban on the export of rice for one year. In this way, we can export more rice and thus bring in foreign currency. Another proposal being considered is the export of logwood. The timber industry was not allowed to export logwood.

The principle of the export of end products, such as parquet flooring, houses, etc. applied here as well.

For certain categories of wood, we will have to modify the principle for one year, again in connection with bringing in foreign currency.

The same is true for bauxite. Since 1980, we have exported as little metal grade bauxite as possible. We will have to enter into contracts whereby we will export bauxite for up to one and a half years in order to bring in funds as quickly as possible.

We will see in how many sectors we will have to apply this, and what the effects of this are. It must be closely examined whether the measures are indeed profitable and in how much time they will produce tangible results.

For example, it makes no sense to sell kopie (a hardwood) for 30 cents a block.

In that case, it would indeed be better to keep it here and look for other possibilities.

Thus, we have several other areas which we are considering in order to fill the gap and to hold the economic activities that we have in our country at a specific level.

In addition to all of this, we will quite certainly have to economize. Suriname is a poor country with a standard of living that is much too high. We must deal efficiently with the means that we possess. We will have to take a look at what we can all economize on throughout the entire country.

However, this does not mean that we will be economizing to the extent that our overly full stores will be displaying empty shelves. We will only have to economize where it is truly necessary and possible.

12271

CSO: 3214/21

BRIEFS

RICE EXPORT DATA FOR 1983--In 1983 Suriname exported 124,000 tons of rice and rice products to several countries. This includes 10,600 tons of white rice, 96,350 tons of cargo rice, and 2,583 tons of steamed rice. European and Caribbean countries were the biggest customers. In 1983 the Netherlands imported 73,000 tons of rice from Suriname, i.e., 1,203 tons of white rice and 72,000 tons of cargo rice. Text Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 1 Feb 84 p I 10319

PUBLIC HOUSING FOR 500 FAMILIES--In the building of the Foundation for Housing for the People the outgoing Minister of Social Affairs and Housing H. Bharos spoke to 39 contractors about the construction of 500 houses to be built at Uitvlugt for low income families. This project will cost 11.4 million guilders and cover the construction of four types of houses with two, three, and four bedrooms. The work will be given out to contract in the middle of February and, if everything goes as planned, construction will begin at the end of February. This morning the contractors received a folder containing the specifications, the blueprints, and a questionnaire. Offers must be tendered on Monday 6 February. The architectural firm Tsai Meu Chong will be in charge of the general management of the project. Minister Bharos indicated that this procedure was chosen to allow everybody to participate and to submit offers. The minister then told the contractors to keep the present situation and the financial monetary policies in mind. The construction of these 500 houses is the first phase; the specifications for the second phase covering the construction of 500 houses for the middle class are ready; the new minister for social affairs and public housing will become responsible for its execution. In conclusion the minister hoped that the contractors nominated for the execution of phase one will do their work the best they can. The meeting was attended by H. Jap A Joe, director of the ministry, Mr Kanhai, director of the Foundation for Public Housing, Mr Meneges, representative of the Planning Bureau, and Mr Brielle, assistant director for Technical Affairs. Text Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 2 Feb 84 p I 10319

NICKERIE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS FEDERATION FOUNDED--Yesterday the Nickerie Agricultural Workers Federation was founded in the district of Nickerie. The initiative was taken by the Banana Workers Union at Nickerie, the Alibux Workers Union, and the Benie Workers Union. The Nickerie Agricultural Workers Federation is mainly concerned with the organization of agricultural

workers of large agricultural enterprises in the Nickerie district. The reason is that even in the year 1984 there are still very bad working conditions and benefits in the large agricultural enterprises, especially in firms where the workers are not yet organized in a union. The workers of these enterprises have now been given the opportunity to become members of the federation, either collectively per enterprise or individually. The executive committee consists of seven members. Jiwan Sital is chairman.

[Text] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 4 Feb 84 p 17] 10319

FAREWELL FOR AMBASSADOR--On Tuesday 31 January, Acting President and Mrs Misier held a farewell luncheon for Dr Joop Hoekman, ambassador of the Netherlands to Suriname. Also present were Prime Minister and Mrs Alibux, and Ambassador and Mrs Jones of Guyana. The latter diplomat will temporarily act as doyen of the diplomatic corps. Commander Lt Col Desi Bouterse was obliged to send his regrets at the last moment for pressing reasons. The Suriname head of state addressed the departing ambassador and said among other things: that independent of the persons and circumstances, a farewell always has a special meaning, the fact is that it is always the breaking off of something that has been built. The acting president mentioned the problems that have arisen in recent times in relations between our country and the Netherlands. As a personal merit, however, the ambassador presented Joop Hoekman as having been a friendly and amiable man, without forsaking his duty as a diplomat. Mr Ramdat Misier expressed the hope that, once in the Netherlands functioning in other capacities, Ambassador Hoekman would form his opinions and make judgments equally calmly and thoughtfully. The acting president, on behalf of himself and his wife, wished the departing ambassador success and happiness. [Text] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 2 Feb 84 p 17] 12271

GREEK AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--The Hon Diamantis Adamantios Vakalopoulos presented his credentials as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Greece to Suriname to Acting President Mr Fred Ramdat Misier on Saturday 28 January 1984. The ceremony at the Presidential Palace was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Errol Alibux. In his statement, Ambassador Vakalopoulos said, among other things, that Suriname is a small country, as is Greece, but that in spite of this they fulfill an important role in the quest for prosperity and the well-being of mankind; they also share the same moral values and are both ready to fight for ideals oriented towards the creation of a better world. The Greek government endorses in full the principles of the non-aligned movement, the ambassador said, and gives its unconditional support on behalf of the success of the North-South dialogue. Greece is always ready to cooperate with all other countries for a peaceful and just world. "Our love of freedom, independence and respect for the fundamental principles of international law and for the charter of the United Nations offers a wide area for cooperation between Greece and Suriname," Mr Vakalopoulos said, adding in closing that he will always do his best to expand relations between the two countries further. [Excerpt] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 30 Jan 84 p 8] 12271

CSO: 3214/21

LABOR DEVELOPMENTS, MEETING WITH CHAMBERS REPORTED

Cement Worker Walkouts

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 21 Feb 84 p 23

[Text] About 500 workers at Trinidad Cement Limited walked off their jobs yesterday.

This was done to protest a reported move by the state-owned company to retrench some 153 workers in what was described as a massive cost-cutting programme aimed at making the company financially efficient.

The company, in the process, also dismissed its industrial relations officer Verne Edwards who had been serving the company for the past eleven years. No reason had been given for Edwards' dismissal but reports coming out of the Claxton Bay plant said that it surrounded a refusal by Edwards to go along with TCL's plan to retrench the workers.

As part of the protest yesterday, workers insisted that Edwards' dismissal was "unjust and unfair."

Oilfields Workers Trade Union vice president Errol McCleod confirmed that workers had "staged a protest of some sort." McCleod said he did not have all the facts at hand. However a report said the workers refused to take up work after it became known that the company intended retrenching some of its employees.

The EXPRESS San Fernando Desk was unable to contact general manager Carroll Robinson who, a secretary said, had been "tied up at a meeting." TCL's board chairman Robert Montano confirmed an industrial problem at Claxton-Bay but declined to comment further.

A spokesman for the workers said that they "refused to believe that the company would axe workers and yet maintain a high-living profile for managers."

The spokesman said that workers were disturbed that while the company had initiated a cost-cutting programme it had spent some \$1.5 million to build a house for the general manager.

The spokesman said that if the company wanted to cut cost it "should first trim the management spending habits." Said McCleod when asked to comment on the workers' grouse, "it is more than that you know. But you cannot take out management excesses on the workers. That is an unfair proposition."

TCL held an emergency meeting with McCleod and other officials of the OWTU/TCL branch in a bid to resolve the issue. Up to late yesterday the meeting was reportedly still in session.

The industrial problems could cost the company thousands of dollars a day. Yesterday several hardware dealers complained of not receiving their quota of cement because the workers in the loading bay had joined the protest. Several large contractors also reported problems getting cement.

It was learnt that while there would be no immediate shortage of the commodity if the protest action was prolonged it could result in a serious shortage of cement in the country.

McCleod expressed optimism that the matter would be resolved.

Demonstration at Texaco

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 21 Feb 84 p 3

[Text] Scores of militant, chanting oilworkers broke through a police line and invaded the Pointe-a-Pierre headquarters of Texaco Trinidad Inc. yesterday evening demanding that the company withdraw warning notices served on some 300 workers for what was described as "unsatisfactory conduct."

The warning notices were reportedly attached to the clock-in cards of workers contrary to the recently expired industrial agreement which demanded that warning notices be served personally on workers.

Workers were told in a circular stuck up on all departmental notice boards listing those workers who were expected to find warning notices on their clock-in cards.

The notices charged workers with "unsatisfactory conduct" and warned of disciplinary action should such conduct be repeated in the future.

The strong censure by the company came five days after several hundred workers left their posts unattended to go to a spot meeting organised by the Pointe-a-Pierre branch of the OWTU in the refinery to whip up support for a public meeting at Marabella on Thursday evening.

According to reports, workers left their posts early on that day as well to attend the meeting.

Yesterday's protest was the worst experienced on the company's property since Texaco came to this country to establish shop in 1956. The

protesting workers ignored police instructions and walked through the administration building calling out office workers.

Some responded but the majority remained at their desks. The workers later assembled on the lawns outside the building to listen to addresses by union officials.

Later yesterday OWTU vice president Errol McCleod was due to meet with Texaco's general manager Lloyd Austin in an attempt to resolve the impasse. McCleod will press the demand for the warning notices to be withdrawn.

Speaking before the meeting yesterday, Mc Cleod said, "Texaco has offered no increase in wages. Texaco is threatening further retrenchment. Yet Texaco wants to stop workers from expressing their frustrations.

"You tell me how on earth will Texaco seek to discipline 300-odd workers. Texaco does not have the moral authority to do any such thing.

Chambers-Labor Talks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister George Chambers met labour leaders for three and a half hours at the Labour Ministry's Riverside Plaza offices yesterday.

And at the end of the talks which began at 10 a.m., a Labour Congress spokesman described the encounter, which was requested by Congress, as "very fruitful."

The Prime Minister led the ministerial team which he appointed last year to hold discussions with Congress and matters discussed included job security, retrenchment, overtime payments, wages and prices, taxation, health surcharge, productivity, labour representation on boards and committees, problems of the unemployed and the restructuring of the education system.

According to a Government spokesman, Mr. Chambers indicated that he would expand the ministerial committee to include Mr Hugh Francis, Minister of Works, Maintenance and Drainage, Public Utilities and Transportation Minister Senator John Eckstein and Housing Minister Senator Wendell Mottley.

Committee members attending the meeting yesterday were Labour Minister Errol Mahabir, Mr. Kamaluddin Mohammed, Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production; Education Minister Overand Padmore, Dr. Cuthbert Joseph, Minister of Local Government and Community Development and Senator Anthony Jacelon, Minister in the Ministry of Finance.

The spokesman said that the committee will hold regular meetings with Congress to formulate proposals on issues which may be raised from time to time.

He also pointed out that Mr. Chambers informed Congress that he will be submitting certain proposals to Cabinet concerning issues discussed.

The committee will also hold discussions with the Employers Consultative Association (ECA) from time to time.

Congress delegates were Mr. Vernon Glean, President; Mr. Owen Hinds, first vice-president; Mr. Basdeo Panday, second vice-president; Mr. Carl Tull, general secretary; Mr. Bentley Bogoneau, deputy general secretary; Dr. Kenrick Rennie, assistant general secretary; Mr. Selwyn John, trustee; and Mr. Francis Mungroo, council member.

CSO: 3298/574/575

PRESIDENT CLARKE SPEAKS ON NEED TO 'JOIN THESE TWO ISLANDS'

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 21 Feb 84 p 24

[Text] President Ellis Clarke has spoken about the need to "join these two islands" in an attempt to cultivate national pride in the country.

The President was speaking at a ceremony to mark the charter night of San Fernando South (SFS) Rotary Club held at the Gulf City Auditorium on Saturday night.

The ceremony, which was chaired by rotarian Peter Quentrall-Thomas, included the presentation of the charter by district governor Neil Isaac to San Fernando south president Gerard Ferreira.

Speaking about the need to establish a sense of national pride, President Clarke said: "Not at all should we become narrow and insulated. If we are to make a contribution to the world, we must first cement ourselves into something that is meaningful.

"If we are to join with people everywhere, we must join these two islands. If we can't live as one family with all the problems and disputes in the family..."

The president said there must be a common aim to work for the welfare of fellow citizens. He added: "Let us strive for that spirit and the will to do for our country and then we can talk of being a true Caribbean people.

"Let us start with being a people proud of ourselves, respectful for one another and sharing and caring for one another."

Earlier, President Clarke praised the club's members for the formation of the new arm.

"The fact that we are not as prosperous as we were years ago and the fact that we cannot depend on the public utilities for many other things, will not deter these young men and their helpful spouses from serving the public," he said.

He remarked that it was "heartening" that while people were striving to maintain their standard of living, the club members had decided to form a rotary club "to put service before self."

"This means that whatever the problems and difficulties which there may be in the country, there is still something to inspire us," President Clarke said.

He said several factors indicated that the San Fernando South Club would be able to cope with problems which they may encounter in the future.

CSO: 3298/574

DETAILS OF CONTROVERSIAL TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ACT

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 19 Feb 84 pp 15, 18

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text] The High Court action by the Tobago House of Assembly for a legal interpretation of its jurisdiction under the Tobago House of Assembly Act comes up again before a judge in Port of Spain tomorrow.

And it is confidently expected by sources here in Tobago that the matter, which has been pending for more than a year, will go ahead this time. Recent postponements were due to reported moves by both sides for an out-of-court settlement, particularly after the Crown Reef meeting on July 26 between Prime Minister George Chambers and ANR Robinson, Chairman of the Assembly, with their respective teams.

The question of the Assembly's functions in the island occupied a top spot on the agenda of that meeting. And in a joint-release issued at the end of the meeting, it appeared that the question had been resolved.

Paragraph Four of that release stated: "It was agreed that the functions set out in Section 21 (91) of the Act relating to the implementation of government policy were the statutory functions of the Assembly and did not require any further instrument for them to be exercised by the Assembly under the Law. The Prime Minister undertook to approach the Cabinet accordingly." [as published]

That clause, it was argued by the Assembly, meant that as far as the Prime Minister was concerned, there was no need for the Assembly to pursue its High Court action for a legal interpretation of its functions. And it was against this background, it is understood, that initiatives by and with the Attorney General were started to have the matter settled out of court.

For reasons which are not clear, those initiatives bore no fruit and the case is back before the court tomorrow with hearing most likely to start.

But what exactly is the Assembly seeking? What does Section 21 of the Act really state in relation to the functions of the Assembly created in November 1980?

Before examining the particular section of the law, it should be stated that its provisions, and their interpretation, have been at the heart of most of the problems which have beset relations between the Government and the Assembly. And until there is a definitive ruling by a court of law, the disagreement and contention are most likely to continue between the two parties.

It is also interesting to note that it is the very Section 21 which the Assembly is relying on in its argument that the 1984 Budget impositions as they relate to Tobago are unlawful since the Minister of Finance did not consult with the Assembly on the Budget as it would affect Tobago, as he is enjoined to do under the section.

The Section is headed "Functions of the Assembly", and states in its opening paragraph: "The Assembly shall formulate and implement policy on all matters referred to it by the Minister and the Minister of Finance shall consult the Assembly on matters of national importance such as the annual national Budget, development projects, and the operation and use of the long-term funds as they relate to Tobago and subject to the Act, the Assembly shall be responsible for implementing in Tobago, government policy relating to:

(a) finance and in particular the raising and collection of revenue and the meeting of expenditure incurred in carrying out the functions of the Assembly specified in this Act;

(b) economic planning, programming and development of the resources of Tobago with special emphasis on agriculture, fisheries, forestry, industrial development and tourism;

(c) the conservation and improvement of the environment;

(d) the provision of adequate infrastructure so as to facilitate the supply of water and electricity, the operation of the telecommunication services and road, sea and air transport facilities.

(e) the establishment and maintenance of a system of comprehensive community services including the operation of education and health facilities and the provision of training in arts and crafts."

That's the end of Section 21, Sub-section 10 of the Act which the Prime Minister had said in the joint Crown Reef release, needed no further instrument to be exercised by the Assembly. And, as can be seen, it is very encompassing.

But Sub-section 2 of the same Section 21, goes even further in listing what the law intended to be the functions of the Assembly. Since I believed that they can be instructive and informative to readers, they are reproduced hereunder:

"In addition to the functions set out in Subsection (1) the Assembly shall undertake in Tobago...

- (a) the construction of roads and bridges other than mainroads and bridges thereon, and, notwithstanding the Highways Act, 1970, the maintenance of all roads including mainroads and the bridges thereon;
- (b) the construction maintenance and repair of all traces on State Land;
- (c) the installation and maintenance of cold storage and other facilities at fishing centres;
- (d) the maintenance of burial grounds licensed by the President subject to the Burial Grounds Act;
- (e) the provision, maintenance and management of markets subject to the County Markets Ordinance.
- (f) the provision, maintenance and control of public pastures and recreation grounds subject to the Recreation Grounds and Pastures Act;
- (g) the giving of assistance, financial or otherwise, towards the provision of community, district or village centres;
- (h) the control of the erection and use of hoarding and exhibition of advertisements subject to the provisions of the Advertisements Regulations Ordinance;
- (i) the distribution of truck-borne water subject to the Water and Sewerage Act, 1965;
- (j) the construction of buildings to be used by the assembly and the maintenance and control of all buildings used by the Assembly;
- (k) the provision, maintenance and control of homes for the aged;
- (l) the financing and administering of the school-feeding programme;
- (m) the maintenance of projects completed by the Development and Environmental Works Division;
- (n) the construction and maintenance of all drains and water courses except main water courses and highway water courses;
- (o) the provision, maintenance and control of such parks, recreation grounds and public spaces as the President may from time to time by Order prescribe;
- (p) the establishment of community and village councils;
- (q) the construction, maintenance and repair of storage and warehousing facilities to any port;
- (r) the establishment and operation of an islandwide system of marketing of agriculture produce and building materials;

(s) the establishment, maintenance and operation of facilities for sports (other than horse racing) including mini-stadiums and public swimming pools;

(t) the introduction, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, of programmes for the preservation and appreciation of Tobago folk art forms and inclusion of such programmes in school curricula;

(u) the identification and preservation of places of historical interest and natural beauty and the establishment of a natural history museum and a Tobago Trust.

(v) the encouragement of the tourist industry by the provision and maintenance of beach facilities, by organising tours to places of interest and by sponsoring programmes of entertainment with particular emphasis on folk theatre;

(w) the maintenance and repair of school buildings;

(x) the functions carried out by local authorities in rural sanitary districts in accordance with the provisions of the written laws specified in the second Schedule."

It will be seen, therefore, that almost every aspect of life in the island, with the exception of law and order, is included in the functions of the Assembly under Section 21 of the Act.

But because there has been dispute over several of these areas ever since the Assembly came into being, a judge has now been asked to give a ruling which, it is hoped, will lead to better understanding of the functions of the Assembly as intended by Parliament, and eventually be the basis upon which there will be improved relations between the Central Government and the Assembly.

CSO: 3298/574

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL PAINTS GLOOMY PICTURE OF CARICOM'S FUTURE

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 19 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Niala Rambachan]

[Text] In three months, Caricom may be no more. Discussions with a senior government official who represented Trinidad and Tobago last month at the Caricom Council of Ministers meeting in Guyana, as well as with a representative of the private manufacturing sector, revealed this week that the regional trade organisation is facing death if some drastic attempts are not made by the member countries to try and resuscitate it.

"The problems appear to be almost intractable at the moment," the government official stated. In fact, according to his account, last month's meeting of ministers was a complete failure in solving the problems which have caused Caricom trading to grind almost to a halt.

But he himself did not envisage Trinidad and Tobago making any concessions to try to drag the Common Market from the slough into which it has descended. In his view, this country has bent over backwards for the other Caribbean nations; it was now time that they faced up to reality.

Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association Secretary Clive Teelucksingh took up a complementary position. His group is advocating that this country sidestep Common Market arrangements and solve trading problems with each individual nation separately.

"The TTMA wants to see a mechanism established whereby we restore trade to what it should be while you try to work out the problems of Caricom," he said.

According to what the government official told the SUNDAY EXPRESS, it is clear that this may become necessary if the general difficulties are not worked out at the upcoming extraordinary meeting of Caricom's Council of Ministers.

This meeting is being planned for some time within the next three months and has become necessary because of the failure of the same group to work out any of the substantial problems during the recent annual meeting in Georgetown.

Why do they expect that another meeting will succeed where the earlier one did not?

"Well, we got a lot of the other business out of the way in the January meeting, so now we will be getting down to the major issues undistracted," the official stated.

The most intractable problems identified were those caused by the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar. The government official interviewed could offer no hope of overcoming these difficulties, but Teelucksingh felt that quotas could be offered by the Jamaican Government to ensure that some trade went on.

However, it was felt that the lure of CBI and other benefits was working to make the Jamaicans less responsive to the urgency of the Caricom situation.

"Apart from the official aid that is being poured into Jamaica by the U.S., there is a lot of unofficial aid that is being offered to the private sector," Teelucksingh observed. "Jamaica is seeking private arrangements with Dominica, Haiti, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. These preferential trading arrangements make it seem that Jamaica is willing to allow the dismantling of Caricom to take place.

"There is no firm, concrete evidence that the Jamaicans have given up on Caricom, but it comes out clear in discussions that Caricom arrangements are neglected in their considerations. Jamaica gets very good payment terms and so on from firms in Miami..."

Many of the officials of the other territories maintain, however, that the major problem with Caricom lies with Trinidad and Tobago's licencing arrangements which effectively block a large quantity of goods from coming into Trinidad.

While the official of our government admitted that this problem has been deliberately allowed to continue and in fact has been increased by the Central Bank's recent imposition of the ECO system, he maintained that it was necessary to protect Trinidad because the other territories were not willing to reciprocate by buying Trinidad goods.

"Everything is targeted to Trinidad," he expostulated. "Even when the trade is formally two-way, everyone regards Trinidad and Tobago as the market when they are building factories, but when we expect them to buy from us they keep pleading that they cannot pay. And this licencing problem does not only apply to Trinidad. Jamaica may say that they are dismantling controls but there is less of it than meets the eye."

Guyanese trade, both men agreed, has become nearly impossible, because of that country's bankruptcy. But Teelucksingh felt that this should not necessarily remain so since he felt it was possible to organise barter arrangements by which rice and timber products were exchanged for

energy-based products. Again this assumed the evasion of the present Caricom arrangements.

The problems between Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, both men felt, could be overcome if the Barbadian Government had the political will to do so.

However the difficulties with the LDCs (Lesser Developed Countries), are far more thorny. These countries, they revealed, have grown accustomed to rules of origin agreements which are favourable to themselves at the expense of the larger countries (principally Trinidad and Tobago).

They are used to being allowed to buy goods cheaply from places like Korea, put on 20 per cent value-added and then re-export the goods to other Caricom territories. Often, one of my sources maintained, this 20 per cent requirement was fulfilled by merely carrying out packaging of the product.

This was permissible when the Trinidad and Tobago economy was floating on oil money, but nowadays, with its sinking fortunes, the Trinidad and Tobago government was becoming far less solicitous about its poverty-stricken neighbours.

"If you see the stream of trade officials from the OECS countries who come here pleading with me to allow their goods to come into Trinidad and Tobago, saying that we are causing factories to close down and social problems to arise in their countries," the official said, "but the problem is that they have one hand open and the other closed.

"The rules of origin criteria will have to be amended so that they operate more fairly. At the beginning we were being kind to them expecting that they would set up agro-industries...but that hasn't happened."

Teelucksingh also believed that it was the basic problems of Caricom that were now showing up because of the crisis in the regional economy. According to him there was no rationalisation of industrial development from the start, and all the countries ended up manufacturing basically the same products.

Now that the real hard times have descended upon the region, whatever accommodations the different islands offered each other previously have started to go by the board, as their own individual problems loom foremost in their minds.

The chickens, laid in times of economic plenty, have now come home to roost and it will take strenuous efforts at the extraordinary meeting to settle them down again.

"Within three months we will know whether we will have a Caricom or not," the SUNDAY EXPRESS was told by its official government source this week. "It's now a real live or die situation. This is the time we've got to decide whether we hang together or hang separately."

CSO: 3298/574

BLUEPRINT FOR ONR, ALLIANCE CHALLENGE TO PNM DISCUSSED

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 19 Feb 84 p 19

[Article by Harry Partap]

[Text] The Alliance and the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) have started the crucial talks to strengthen the electoral accommodation pact of 1983, as they prepare for the long journey to the 1986 general election notwithstanding a detour along the way.

Despite the ONR claim last week that the first meeting had been "frankly cordial and constructive," a lot more has to be done by both Alliance leader Basdeo Panday and ONR leader Karl Hudson-Phillips to convince certain factions in both parties opposed to the strategy "at an electoral accommodation is the only legal and constitutional apparatus to displace the firmly entrenched PNM.

There is no doubt at all that the PNM cannot be shaken in separate battles. And the ruling party has formidable enough strength to crack up any alliance that threatens its power base. The PNM has the ability to still maintain power with its minority 30 per cent vote.

That is a fact on which the opposition parties would do well to ponder. So if the Alliance/ONR wants to stall accommodation talks and then at the eleventh hour hurriedly allocate seats, then it will be crushed by the weight of the PNM election steam-roller.

This is straight talk which even the politically conscious fourth formers at the traditional five-year colleges know all too well. The PNM has already started its campaign and during the last few months during constituency conventions the constituency elections officer made the point that the elections machinery will be oiled in anticipation.

The opposition had been bearing a cross of uncertainty which always militated against electoral victory at the elections that mattered most--the general election where seats make power and subsequently government.

I still keep in touch with events in the tiny Turks and Caicos Islands on the southern end of the Bahama chain. Their general election is due in

November. But both the ruling Peoples National Party of Chief Minister Mrman Saunder and Opposition Leader Oswald Skippings have named candidates for the dozen of more constituencies.

These are two separate and well established parties there, where it was felt that the candidates must be selected early and put in to, as it were, work up the seats.

That strategy is even more necessary under an electoral accommodation between two distinct and separate parties as the Alliance and ONR. The fact that elections are not due for some 36 months is hardly a reason for dragging the issue along.

The allocation of seats will do several things. For one it will reduce the now obvious tensions in both parties where certain people are eying and protecting certain seats. It will stop the internal bickering at the level of the county councils controlled by the Alliance/ONR.

In fact only last week a directive was sent to councillors in both parties stating that the leadership will brook no further disunity in the councils. The councillors were instructed to settle their differences at caucus level and present a united front to the public.

But, primarily, it will allow the particular party to organize its elections machinery to, as Lloyd Best likes to say, "bring the bacon home." It will not be prudent for the two groups to wait until the elections bell calls before settling the allocation of seats.

There may not be the need to name candidates as was done in the Turks and Caicos Islands, but certainly the parties could identify the seats that will be contested by the ONR or the Alliance. In this way valuable campaigning time could be made available when the election is called instead of that time being spent on dealing with seat allocation.

A word of caution about this exercise. It will be naive for the ONR to think that the Alliance would surrender its political base in the sugar constituencies merely to preserve the accommodation. The dog-eat-dog fight in 1981 revealed that the ONR ran third in the sugar constituencies. This is an established fact and nothing now can change that. The Alliance will continue to hold sway in Chaguanas, Caroni East, Couva South, Couva North, Tabaquite, Naparima, Oropouche, Princes Town and St Augustine.

It will be equally naive to believe that the ONR will simply give up on its chances for the marginal seats of Nariva, Pointe-a-Pierre, Fyzabad, Ortoire/Mayaro and Toco/Manzanilla. It is in this sphere that the special teams now discussing the accommodation strategy will have to exercise skill, commitment and real accommodation.

As a matter of interest, the present Alliance seat of Siparia could well be the subject of compromise, with the Tunapuna seat left exclusively for Tapia leader Lloyd Best.

The spirit of the accommodation strategy will be defeated if in the present discussions the Alliance adheres strictly to assigning the ONR to the hard, traditional PNM seats in Port of Spain and the east/west corridor and hogging the marginal seats. The spirit of give-and-take on both sides will be crucial as the parties continue to find a way to maintain and defend the accommodation strategy.

CSO: 3298/574

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL DISMISSES REPORTS OF 'SNAP' ELECTION

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 22 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Harry Partap]

[Text] Senior government minister Kamaluddin Mohammed has dismissed reports that the ruling Peoples' National Movement (PNM) was contemplating calling a "snap" election this year.

He said that elections will be in 1986 unless Prime Minister George Chambers decided otherwise.

Mohammed, who is the Agriculture, Lands and Food Production Minister and one of the three deputy political leaders of the PNM, declared "we in the PNM do not operate in that way." He scoffed at newspaper reports and the predictions of opposition politicians that the PNM would call a snap election.

Mohammed said the only election he knew about this year would be that of the Tobago House of Assembly which was constitutionally due in 1984.

Mohammed made the statements while delivering the feature address at the installation of officers ceremony of the revived Couva South Constituency Group of the PNM on Monday night. The function was held at the Couva Junior Secondary School.

Senator Anthony Jacelon installed the officers which included the newly elected chairman former parliamentarian Cedric Weekes. Another former parliamentarian Tahir Ali attended the function.

Mohammed said there was a lot of speculation about a snap election. He said that the opposition was saying a lot of things, but he advised the audience to let "that talk rest there."

Mohammed said the PNM was an organized party which followed certain procedures and steps. Said he, "we are not an accommodation or an alliance where we do things by guess. No, my friends, we are a respectable and responsible political party second to none in this country, the Caribbean and beyond."

Said Mohammed: "When the A-class race is called only the A-class horses will be in that race. All those jumping out now will be left behind." Mohammed said that the party should now concentrate on reviving all the dormant groups which will then spring the PNM back to life again.

He told the gathering that that very night a special meeting of the PNM was taking place, and that that meeting would have the effect of putting new zest into the party. Mohammed did not disclose where the meeting was being held or the people attending it.

He reprimanded those who make fun of the Prime Minister, describing him as a strong and brave person who was prepared to level with the people. Said Mohammed, "Mr Chambers is an honest man. He is a respected Prime Minister in international quarters and he deserved the respect of the people of this country as well."

Mohammed pledged his allegiance to Chambers dismissing other reports of splits in the PNM and the Cabinet. Said Mohammed, "I do not know where people get those reports of splits in the party and the Cabinet. There is no split in the cabinet. We have a united cabinet and we all support the Prime Minister.

"Let me say this here tonight. I have given my fullest confidence to the Prime Minister and I will stand by him and give him whatever support is needed to ensure that this nation remained united and progressive," the minister ended.

CSO: 3298/574

BRIEFS

TOBAGO AIRPORT TERMINAL--Crown Point Airport in Tobago may get a new terminal building at a cost of \$25 million. This was one of the proposals discussed when the finance and economics committee of Cabinet met in Tobago on Monday. The team which flew to the sister island by helicopter, met at the Crown Reef Hotel under the chairmanship of Labour Minister Errol Mahabir. They looked at a scaled model of the building near the existing terminal building and construction is expected to start this year. In related news, navigational and communication facilities at Piarco and Crown Point airports are being upgraded to meet international standards estimated to cost \$10.2 million (Canadian). [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Feb 84 p 1]

PHONE SERVICE FOR TOBAGO--Telephone service is being made available to about 90 per cent of subscribers in Tobago, with the testing last week of a new telephone repeater station at Runemedes, a Ministry of Information statement said last night. The statement said that the service which was one of the initiatives of Minister responsible for Tobago Affairs, Senator Anthony Jacelon, should be introduced in April this year. The statement quoted Jacelon as saying that it was "something I've been pushing for two years. It is good to see one of my plans for development in Tobago materialise," Jacelon was quoted as saying. About 70 per cent of the island is currently being served by telephone network centres in Scarborough, Roxborough and Mt. Pleasant, the statement said. It added that the new repeater station would link up such villages as Castara, L'Anse Fourmi and Palatuvier. The statement said, however, that priority would be given to public and community services such as health centres, fire stations, post offices schools and revenue offices, before service to private homes. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 21 Feb 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/575

RANDOM POLL SHOWS PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN NEW ADMINISTRATION

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 11 Feb 84 p 2-21

[Article by Gilberto Carreno: "Public Trusts Lusinchi's Choices for Team"]

[Text] The man in the street, the bystander who forms his own opinions about national events in the simplest way without a lot of reading or analysis, has confidence in the ability of the president of the republic to choose his government team. He does not know much about the problems related to the economy and the currency but, with respect to the former, he feels that the country has the need and obligation to pay its foreign debt. As to the dollar, the public feels that the establishment of single parity would be best.

Among the basic problems to be solved by the new administration, it considers unemployment a priority.

The EL UNIVERSAL survey was carried out in public areas like the Plaza Bolivar and the Boulevard de Sabana Grande.

Seven people were interviewed. They were all confident that the choice of men to join Jaime Lusinchi in the government is correct.

The basic questions were as follows: What is your opinion of the government team President Lusinchi is forming? What do you think are the main problems to be confronted by the new government? How should the foreign debt problem be solved? What is your opinion on the problem with the dollar? If you were president of the republic, what is the first thing you would do?

Everyone to Work

"What is your opinion of the government team that President Lusinchi is forming? Does it seem good to you or does it have some flaw?" We asked this question of the first person interviewed who identified himself as Rafael Ramon Araujo.

"Well, I don't know anything about that, sir. I leave that to those who govern."

"What do you think are the main problems to be confronted by the new government?"

"The main problem of a Venezuelan is that we want to live an easy life. The government must work full time and force everyone to work full time. It must not encourage the idea that everyone wants the government to change so that he can live off the government."

"How do you think the government should solve the foreign debt problem?"

"About that question, I say: the democracy has amassed that public debt and now we find ourselves up to our necks in it."

"What we Venezuelans must do is work full time because we are tangled in a web right now."

"What about the problem of the dollar? What do you think?"

"To me, the problem of the dollar has been handled correctly. There has been a flight of foreign currency. Anyone who wants to put out his hand and takes the money away. After all the money has been taken, we do not know how to recover it."

"If you were president of the republic, what is the first thing you would do?"

"Well, the first thing I would do if I were president is put everyone to work."

Support for Venezuelan Artist

A young painter who was creating the beauty of the Plaza Bolivar on a canvas and identified himself as Julio Diaz gave the following opinions:

"I believe that President Lusinchi's cabinet has been well chosen. I don't see any flaw."

"The main problem of the country is unemployment. That must be solved first."

"I don't know what the problem of the dollar is. Since I have never had anything to do with dollars, I don't know what is happening."

"I don't know anything about the government debt either. I only know that the country owes money and has to pay it back. Otherwise, all the banks it owes will jump on it."

"If I were president of the republic, the first thing I would do is offer support to the Venezuelan artist who is so ignored. Also it is necessary to promote art."

Good Administrators

Antero Moreno Zambrano answered:

"I feel things are going well, more or less. I think the government is very balanced."

"The first problem that must be solved is to bring prosperity to the country."

"I don't know anything about the debt. I don't know."

"I don't know anything about the dollar."

"If I were president, what I would do is put in good administrators and insist that everyone do a good job."

Education, Employment

Benito Vargas, a regular visitor to Plaza Bolivar, answered:

"Well, from the news I have, it seems to me that the people who are with Dr Jaime Lusinchi now are people chosen for their ability as politicians. Surely they are willing to be a good government, to cooperate fully with Dr Jaime Lusinchi. I hope it is that way."

"The most important problem of the country is difficult to explain in a single answer. The truth is that the situation is problematic; there is a need for everything. The most indispensable thing now is full employment. If only it comes quickly, even in small doses, because there is widespread unemployment and idleness in Caracas."

"Well, son, the truth is that I am not versed in economics. I think the foreign debt should be paid. Surely this government will do something in that sense. It is up to them right now. I don't believe they can leave it for later because some future loans for the country depend on it."

"The problem of the dollar here in Venezuela is that the policy that has been applied until now is not accepted. I agree on setting a standard rate for the dollar, not fluctuating like the peso fluctuates in Colombia. That brings many economic problems for the country."

"The first thing I would do if I were president would be to take mass education to all sectors and also full employment. That is basic for making the people happy. As the Liberator said: 'The best government is the one that brings the greatest happiness to the people.'"

Cipriano Castro Would Nationalize Banks

One person who was listening to the radio alone identified himself as Cipriano Castro. He answered:

"The Lusinchi team is a trained team. I imagine they are well equipped to confront the current crisis. I believe they are people with a good economic and social science background."

"The main problems are, first of all, unemployment, the high cost of living and agriculture. These things, in my opinion, must be solved as soon as possible."

"This debt will probably be paid but it is very large. 1 Venezuelans must make sacrifices."

"About the dollar, it is necessary to give it a set value of 6 to 10 bolivares, not 12, 13 or 14. That cannot be serious."

"As president of the republic, the first thing I would do is nationalize all the banks."

"Why?"

"So there would not be so many problems."

Respond to Confidence

Maria Esmeralda Varela, a third-year college student and unemployed business secretary looking for work, answered:

"I think that team is good. As a Venezuelan citizen, I think that the president needs people at his side to help him and not leave the whole burden to him. I also believe that if they were appointed by the president, it is because they have his confidence. It is best to govern with persons in whom you have confidence."

"There are many problems that must be confronted. I think one of the main ones is the foreign debt because it overwhelms the country."

"I don't understand much about it but I believe that a study should be made to determine which debts must be paid immediately and which ones later. I think the most urgent debts must be paid immediately."

"I think if our currency went down so much in relation to the dollar, it was because it was necessary. I think it was necessary although it made many things increase; it was a necessary evil."

"If I were president, the first thing I would do is think that the people placed their confidence in me and I must respond to that confidence. Otherwise, I would not be able to face that country that voted for me."

Fight Against Crime

Leida Gonzalez gave the following opinions:

"I feel the team formed by President Lusinchi is good so far."

"The first action that the government should undertake is a full-scale battle against crime. then would come housing."

"The debt problem will depend on the economic measures that, I think, will have to be announced soon. Many things must be restricted."

"The dollar is high but I suppose it cannot come down as many hope. Some believe it should return to 4.30 bolivares but I think the minimum would be 9.50. I would agree with establishing a set value."

"If I were president of the republic, I would have to very carefully study the first thing to do because the country has many problems at this time."

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CSO: 3348/290

CSE SETS 27 MAY FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p D-13

[Article by Imperio Rodriguez]

[Text] Although the decision to set 27 May as the date for the municipal elections received the unanimous support of the members of the CSE [Supreme Electoral Council], a "battle" was fought yesterday over the 6 days between that date and 3 June which COPEI [Social Christian Party] had hoped for.

As is known, the AD [Democratic Action] advocated Sunday 13 May and Sunday 20 May out of the dates proposed by Electoral Systems. The date 27 May was also proposed to leave enough time, according to Alfredo Weil Reyna (COPEI).

At the meeting yesterday morning between the presidents of the legislative chambers and party leaders of the AD and COPEI, the date of the municipal elections was discussed and there was a preagreement.

However, at the beginning of the CSE meeting, COPEI representative Enrique Bustamante Luciani argued for 3 June as the date for municipal elections. He requested that the matter be deferred until next Wednesday. The AD representative, David Morales Bello, made a solid argument based on the dates proposed by Electoral Systems. He proposed 27 May and asked COPEI to accept it.

After consulting with his party (Eduardo Fernandez), Bustamante Luciani agreed to Morales Bello's proposal and the date was voted on unanimously by the members.

In this way, an intermediate date between 20 May (AD) and 3 June (COPEI) was reached. The difference between 27 May--proposed by Weil--and 3 June is 6 days. Therefore, Weil indicated at the end of the session that the battle of 6 days had been fought.

Also the proposal by the MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] representative, Antonio Jose Urbina, to ask the National Congress to lift the temporary provision in Article 33 of the Organic Law on Municipal Government and to hold municipal elections midway through the constitutional term was accepted.

Based on the date determined yesterday, foreigners and new voters must register in the Permanent Electoral Register between 10 March and 25 March--that is, 15 days.

The demand by Radical Cause and the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] for additional delegations from Andres Velasquez and Julio Castillo was considered "inappropriate."

Controversial Matters

CSE President Carlos Delgado Chapellin made the announcement to the journalists after 3 hours of meeting about "a number of decisions on pending controversial matters."

"As to the municipal elections, the CSE agreed to set 27 May 1984 as the date of the elections, taking into consideration the technical capacity of the organism. According to the technical report, this was considered the most appropriate date for the elections."

The CSE president emphasized that the CSE agreed to ask the National Congress to comply with Article 33 of the Organic Law on Municipal Government in the sense of putting into effect the general principle of this article and convoking separate midterm municipal elections--that is, within 3 years.

"It asks that a committee be appointed in Congress to seriously and exhaustively study everything on municipal elections and general improvements in the Venezuelan electoral system including the form of voting, representation of minorities and the nominal or single slate vote. In short, all this must be stipulated and studied in the National Congress and decisions made on the case."

He pointed out that the CSE, as an organ of great experience in the reality of electoral processes, will appoint a committee to study the matter.

"In short, it involves a serious and consistent effort by the Congress to, once and for all, update electoral legislation."

Finally he pointed out that the CSE felt the demands of the Radical Cause and the MIR "inappropriate."

AD

David Morales Bello revealed his satisfaction because the CSE unanimously resolved to set 27 May for the municipal elections, "accepting the proposal made in today's session."

He revealed that, in this way, the AD offered the country cooperation that it hopes to translate into collective peace. He emphasized that the CSE gave a lesson in political pedagogy with that decision.

COPEI

Enrique Bustamante Luciani also emphasized the significance of the unanimous decision and spoke out for the aspiration of the communities to modernize the electoral system.

"We are all aware that the truly important thing is that the Venezuelan voter have the real opportunity to choose, individually, the people who should be on the municipal councils. Also the councils should be renovated midway through the period, according to Article 33 of that law."

MAS

Antonio Jose Urbina revealed that, in addition to voting for the date (27 May), he proposed that the CSE ask Congress to apply Article 33 of the Law on Municipal Government.

"Also the CSE should appoint a committee to study existing electoral legislation, a proposal that also won the support of the other parties. I believe that this proposal was the reason such a difficult matter was unanimously voted on today."

MEP

Evencio Gallardo revealed that, more important than the date itself, were the facilities that should be given to the groups of voters so that they can organize to participate in the municipal electoral process.

"Even though important modifications in the electoral system or nomination system have not been achieved, the MEP [People's Electoral Movement] voted for it because it understood that it was the intermediate point between the positions under discussion in the national political scene."

Gallardo, in the name of the MEP, abstained when the request by the Radical Cause and the MIR was considered "inappropriate."

MIR

Carlos Flores Conde thinks that the decision of the CSE concerning the date of the municipal elections was based on a political agreement that did not take into consideration the aspiration of the communities for legal reforms to democratize the electoral process.

"In that sense, the political agreement ignored that aspiration of the neighborhood communities. I hope they are considered in the midterm municipal elections. I also hope the reforms materialize and there are no excuses about Velasquez and Julio Castillo. During the week the detailed vote will be presented in writing to the group in order to demonstrate 'the permanent inflexibility of the political behavior of the AD toward those who have constantly opposed its governments and actions.'"

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COPEI SENATOR ON NEED TO ACHIEVE PARTY UNITY

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 17 Feb 84 p 1-15

[Text] Senator Pedro Pablo Aguilar stated yesterday that COPEI [Social Christian Party] must stop talking about "isms." In other words, it must not continue giving the image that the party is a federation of well defined groups.

This opinion was given in reference to new group statements and comments from journalistic sectors indicating a separation between Herreraism and Pedro Pabloism.

Aguilar referred to the necessary revision of the party based on an analysis of what happened in December. He indicated that it is time to include ideological principles in that revision.

The COPEI senator made these statements on the program "Buenos Dias" with Sofia and Carlos Rangel.

Caldera, Directorate, Unity

Senator Aguilar was asked his opinion on the last COPEI national directorate, especially the statements made by Dr Rafael Caldera. His first words were:

"We are making a great effort so that the country can clearly perceive the sensitivity that prevails in the national leadership of the party. We know that we suffered a very bad electoral reverse on 4 December. We have to make a great effort so that the party can adequately play its role as leader of the opposition and so that we keep COPEI a government alternative in the future."

Aguilar continued that this requires not only preserving and maintaining the unity of the party but also projecting a better image. Perhaps pluralism has had some deviations that have given the country the feeling that COPEI is a confederation of groups. No, COPEI is a pluralistic party where there are different nuances and opinions but, in essence, they correspond to a doctrinaire, ideological position, one program and one strategy. We have a lot to do to reestablish consistency in political action because that is the way to regain credibility. Perhaps what affected the party was a certain loss of credibility.

"The effort of each one of us should be directed toward projecting an image of a party aware of what happened on 4 December and ready for political action to meet its objectives and its responsibilities."

Senator Aguilar was told that Alvarez Paz said that Caldera's statements in the directorate are shared by the majority of the party.

"There has not been a poll. I would say that some of the things that Dr Caldera said are shared by all the party. Perhaps others are a matter of discussion today. Actually, the directorate was the first step in an analysis of the election results. There is an excellent article by Enrique Perez Olivares which contains different opinions. It agrees remarkably with Eduardo Fernandez' report that we must place the failures on three basic causes: government, party and campaign."

Pedro Pablo Aguilar was reminded that Caldera placed the responsibility for the electoral loss only on the government.

"Caldera's campaign was really exceptional. He made an incredible effort. Now research on public opinion is important to find out what happened. I have seen two surveys by Datos and Gallup. We are waiting for a psychomotivational one."

Very interesting things show up like, for example, the fact that barely 2 percent of those who voted for Lusinchi maintain they did it as a negative vote.

"About 80 percent of the votes, according to the voters themselves after voting, was based on the fact that the voter liked the party, the candidate or his message, was a member of the AD [Democratic Action] or a sympathizer, felt he could live better under the AD, liked its propaganda, etc."

COPEI, Its Future, Its Leaders

"What influence do you think former president Herrera will have on COPEI in the future?" Before answering, he made this statement: "I think it is necessary to continue the examination, precisely with the intention of finding those factors that had an effect on 4 December and finding situations that must be corrected. We have to examine the reason for our popular defeat from the standpoint of ideological definition to behaviors and attitudes. Ideology is not immutable (we might be a little out of date ideologically). We have to examine all these things, precisely to find corrections that permit us to again be a party that expresses the majority will of the country and that keeps itself not only a valid spokesman with the AD but also a government alternative."

Then he talked about former president Herrera:

"I think it is essential that this debate does not try to accuse anyone-- President Caldera who was our candidate nor Luis Herrera who was the head of the government--in a desire for a sacrificial lamb. That is a tendency that immediately crops up as a temptation. That would be very serious. Rafael Caldera is and will continue to be an essential and basic figure and Luis Herrera

has to continue playing and will play a major role not only in COPEI but in the country."

"Equals?"

"They have their positions. Caldera is the founding leader par excellence. That is a fact, like it or not. Luis Herrera is also a solid party leader."

"Do you think he will have considerable influence on the future of COPEI?"

"Yes, I think so. At this time, Luis Herrera has a bad public image. However, he will soon recover and receive recognition for the positive aspects of his government work."

COPEI "Isms"

It was commented to Pedro Pablo Aguilar that he had led his own group within the party and that it had united with President Herrera in what is known as Herrera-Pedro Pabloism. He stated the following:

"The best thing is not to talk any more about 'isms.' Hopefully, it is not necessary to continue talking about Calderism, Herreraism, Pedro Pabloism, any 'ism.' One reason is that this is somewhat pejorative; it is like having the members stamped."

"There are people who say that the alliance between Pedro Pablo Aguilar and Herrera leads to victory on the National Committee and presidential victory. At the same time, they say that the time has come for Pedro Pablo to have his own identity, to distinguish himself from Luis Herrera."

"The position that has been called Herrera-Pedro Pabloism I would say responds more than anything to a concept, an emphasis of certain aspects of the COPEI political plan, a style, in some ways a human characteristic. COPEI at the beginning was the product of youths trained in Catholic schools. The people who founded the party, the first leaders and many of the current leaders came from Catholic schools. I do not come from Catholic schools; I come from public schools and state universities.

"I find the ideology is very dynamic. In general terms, there have been very notable changes in Venezuela from the social, cultural and economic point of view, among others, in the last 20 or 30 years. The institutions and political parties continue to be the same. It is necessary to ask if we democratic political leaders are not repeating and thinking what we said and thought a long time ago when the national reality was different.

"One of the efforts we have tried to make in COPEI is for the party to keep up with the development of the country. I feel there are many people in the party who perceive and accept these ideas."

Aguilar stated: "We have managed to be the expression of the changing Venezuela."

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